



# Calaveras Presbyterian Church

Meeting at: 323 S. Main St., Angels Camp, California • PO Box 1800, Murphys CA 95247

September 14, 2023

TO: The Brethren of the Reformed Presbyterian Church Hanover Presbytery

Greetings in Christ:

The Session of Calaveras Presbyterian Church is again pleased to report that God has continued to immensely bless the ministry of our church in the Gold Rush Area of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of northern California. Our now 4-year-old congregation experiences a steady rate of growth in every way. Our members and attendees continue to exhibit a hunger and thirst for the true Gospel. Our regular Sunday morning service attendance now regularly includes 180-200 persons from three counties, with several families traveling more than an hour to attend.

We continue to struggle, however, at finding space large enough to accommodate our congregation's worship, teaching, and fellowship ministries. In the meantime, our deacon Dave Duggan, who is the director of the local high school's fine arts center, facilitates our weekly use of the center's beautiful performing arts auditorium, where we are now meeting. The auditorium, with state-of-the-art technical capabilities, provides space for potentially more than doubling our congregation and offers space for fellowship meals (although we lack good Sunday school class space). Yet we are blessed by these efforts of Mr. Duggan, for which we are grateful. Our use of the facilities depends on his presence at all times, so he is tightly tied to our ability to have a worship space.

God continues to heighten our ministry to many spiritually needy in our county. The Lord has brought to us a number of individuals and families with great difficulties in their lives. A large number of our mature members are involved in foster care of children whose parents are living lives which threaten the well-being of their children. While fostering is in itself a ministry to the children, we are now beginning to see that the birth parents are taking an interest in our church and its message, with a number of them attending worship services from time to time. To some extent, this may be their way of making contact with their children, but in many cases the parents have begun to take an interest in the ministry of the Word. We are now contemplating how we may start a focused evangelistic effort to reach these parents. This past year, two of the foster children who had been cared for by several of our families, made their own credible professions of faith and were baptized. Subsequently, they were returned to their natural parents, who have become faithful attendees at another church some distance from us and continue to express their love of the Gospel. Another foster child being cared for by Pastor Moes's family has just recently made profession of faith and was baptized. Pastor's family is currently hosting two foreign exchange students who have been attending our services.

Overall, we have administered covenant baptism to eight infants and children in 2023. Sixteen communicant members were added to our rolls in 2022 and 2023. We expect to add perhaps as many as 12 new communicant members and two more baptized children members before year's end. Two marriages involving CPC members have occurred since our last report to presbytery, and two more CPC young couples have become engaged to be married.

Pastor Moes concluded his series of sermons on the Book of Revelation and is currently well through the book of First Samuel. Seminary-trained teacher Brent Hardy taught a series of excellent lessons on the Epistle of James in our adult Sunday school class. A number of other talented teachers have taken turns in teaching that class, and Elder Garry Moes is currently teaching a series on Covenantalism. Pastor Moes has been teaching lessons from Church History during our Sunday evening study.

We have a robust number of children and youth attending a thriving Sunday school and catechism program. In addition, we have adult men's and women's teaching and fellowship groups, and some members have initiated home prayer groups. Our teen-level youth group is a spiritually powerful group of young believers who exhibit a great love for the faith and its manifestations in their lives. We launched a large local chapter of the Calvinist Cadet Corps for boys, which has been very well received and includes a number of community lads who are not regularly part of our church. Several of our children and women are also active in a community-based American Heritage Girls chapter. We celebrate the Lord's Supper monthly on the first Sunday, and also hold a Family Fellowship Luncheon on that Sunday.

A new deacon, Charlie Mantei, was ordained during the past year. The diaconate is active in supporting the needy in our church and community. Our benevolent and general funds are healthy. One of our young women recently undertook to provide general care for our oldest couple in the congregation.

Our church staged a presence at a local pub's Drag Queen night last winter. We sang Christmas carols and other hymns, and our leaders, assisted by a former homosexual from the Bay Area, engaged in open-air preaching at the site.

At its September 2023 meeting, the CPC Session agreed to adopt the New Geneva School of California as an independent ministry of Calaveras Presbyterian Church, with the CPC Session as the interim governing board. Pastor Moes serves as dean. The faculty currently consists of CPC members. The school, founded by Pastor Moes in 2022, has a current enrollment of 35 students at both elementary and high school levels and meets at the First Baptist Church in Angels Camp. The school has a classical-education general academic track, a music track, and an individual seminary level study/reading program, which already has attracted several auditing students and one fulltime student. See more information at [newgeneschool.org](http://newgeneschool.org).

Our web site [calaveraspres.org](http://calaveraspres.org) and various CPC social media pages and groups, as well as our YouTube streaming of services and classes, continue to expand our outreach far and wide. We also support a local crisis pregnancy center and an at-risk teen mentoring program in which several of our members are active in leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry J. Moes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end.

Garry J. Moes  
Clerk of Session