

Recommendation

The Synod of the Pacific overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to approve the merger of the congregations and minister members of the Presbytery of Sacramento and the Presbytery of Stockton to form a new presbytery to be known as the Presbytery of North Central California, and to include in the geographic region of the new Presbytery of North Central California all of the geography of the current Sacramento and Stockton Presbyteries except for Mariposa and Merced Counties, CA, and to transfer Mariposa and Merced Counties, CA, to San Joaquin Presbytery, with all actions to be effective July 1, 2020.

Rationale

The Stockton Task Force was created by the Synod of the Pacific to address the future options for Stockton Presbytery which was on the cusp of falling below the minimum constitutional requirement of ten congregations to be viable as an independent presbytery. In order to strengthen their viable ministry, a Synod Task Force studied several options, including a future relationship with neighboring Sacramento Presbytery to the north and with San Joaquin Presbytery to the south. Ultimately a decision was reached and approved by the Synod to merge all congregations and minister members of Sacramento Presbytery and Stockton Presbytery, including all geographic territories of both existing presbyteries with the exception of Merced and Mariposa Counties, both adjacent to San Joaquin Presbytery. These two counties (no longer containing any PC(USA) congregations) will become a part of the existing San Joaquin Presbytery, along with adequate funding from the Synod of the Pacific and from Stockton and Sacramento Presbyteries for the development of at least two New Worshipping Communities. These counties are well-suited culturally to San Joaquin Presbytery, and San Joaquin has a strong reputation for establishing sustainable new church plants. This addition of geography and funds will strengthen San Joaquin Presbytery's own sustainability.