

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

PASSING THE BATON



PURPOSE CHURCH



SUNDAYS 8:30am | 10:00am | 11:30am



PASSING^{THE}BATON

*Pastor Glenn Gunderson Retirement Celebration &
Pastor Eric Holmstrom Installation Worship Service*

THAT'S MY KING

VIDEO "SENTIMENTS"

Purpose Church Staff Past & Present

WORTHY IS THE LAMB/IS HE WORTHY?

THE JESUS WAY

WELCOME & OFFERING

BE THOU MY VISION

VIDEO "BATON PASS"

MESSAGE - THANK YOU

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

BATON PRESENTATION & PASSING

INSTALLATION

MESSAGE - A GOOD AND GODLY PASTOR

Pastor Eric Holmstrom

THE BLESSING

BENEDICTION



THE RACE
marked out for us



SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

WELCOME TO PURPOSE CHURCH!

Are you new to Purpose Church?

We are so glad you are here! We want to meet you, answer any questions you might have, and help you get connected. Come to the Connect Center located in the Lobby after the service to meet our friendly team and pick up a free gift!

NEXT STEPS AT PURPOSE

We believe every person has a *next step* to take. We are here to help you discover and take yours.

Have you decided to follow Jesus?
Do you want to get baptized?
Do you need hope, healing and support?
Are you looking for meaningful community?

Head to: purposechurch.com/nextsteps



PRAYER

We would love to pray with you!
Please stop by the prayer room
after the service or submit a
prayer request online.
purposechurch.com/prayer

GIVING

We believe that generous people
transform the world! Offering
boxes are available in the lobby on
Sundays or you can give online.
purposechurch.com/give

NEW SERIES STARTING OCTOBER 6



586 N. Main Street, Pomona, CA 91768 | 909.629.5277
PURPOSECHURCH.COM

SACRED STORIES

FROM OUTREACH 100 CHURCHES

It Takes Two

Purpose Church embraces Co-Leadership and Succession

Sometimes it takes a crisis to shake up the status quo and accelerate positive change. It's happened more than once at Purpose Church in Pomona, California. In the early '90s, the 154-year-old church faced bankruptcy--prompting the Silent Generation church leaders to pass the baton to the Baby Boomers, who were young adults with families at the time. Lead Pastor Glenn Gunderson carried the church into a new era, and it thrived. But over time, as the average age in the congregation crept up, he knew it was time to start thinking about passing leadership to the Millennials upon his retirement. Enter the COVID-19 pandemic, another crisis that created an opening for change.



"I'm not saying it's been without growing pains, but it's interesting how God has used times of crisis," Gunderson notes. "The Lord has used those things for good that were intended for evil. People are very open to change during a crisis, and the pandemic accelerated our ability to change. God has really used times of crisis in our congregation to help us transition to the next generation."

To begin reaching younger people, Gunderson asked Eric Holmstrom, a Millennial and the church's high school pastor for a decade, to begin to co-lead with him. First, Holmstrom shared preaching duties, and eventually earned the title of co-lead pastor. This fall, as Gunderson retires, Holmstrom will step into the lead pastor role.

"The two of us began to lead together, and I think that has been the catalyst for growth," Gunderson explains. "We share preaching and leadership 50/50, and we began to reach all generations . . . and to see this accelerated growth once again."

Since Holmstrom began to share in leadership and preaching duties, the church has begun to embrace new forms of outreach that have positively impacted its ability to reach its community, being in the heart of the city.

A few years before the pandemic, Sam Johnson found the church and found sobriety. Prior to joining, he was homeless, sleeping in the church's parking lot and battling addiction that had him in and out of jail and rehab. He found a new life in Christ, freedom from addiction in Celebrate Recovery, and discipleship and mentoring through men's groups. Now, as a member of six years, he gives back and helps others on their own faith journeys by leading several groups in the church.

"Something I really value about our church is [our] openness to anyone from any walk of life and willingness to take in broken people like myself," Johnson testifies.

And that openness and related outreaches have grown even more in the six years since Johnson joined. Much can be attributed to both Gunderson and Holmstrom. Gunderson had the foresight to bring a fresh perspective to the church as part of a healthy succession plan. Holmstrom recognized the need in the community and found ways for the church to help meet those needs. The church now almost perfectly reflects the ethnicity and demographics of its community, with no race over 50% and all generations represented.



And Gunderson says they have implemented outreach programs he never would have thought of on his own.



PURPOSE CHURCH

Pomona, CA

Lead Pastors: **Glenn Gunderson
and Eric Holmstrom**

Website: **PurposeChurch.com**

Denomination: **Non-denominational**

Founded: **1870**

Fastest-Growing: **52**

"What's different that he brought and I didn't?" Gunderson asks himself. "It's interesting; when a 67-year-old and a 37-year-old co-lead, you can have a broader reach. I might quote Billy Graham, but he might quote younger Christian leaders of color. A little less Chris Tomlin, a little more Maverick City."

After realizing the importance of small groups during the pandemic, and with Holmstrom's leadership, Purpose Church has really leaned into them.

"We are now groups-driven, not just a church with groups," Gunderson says. Holmstrom started five outreach Sundays per year - big community driven events with fun activities meant to draw a crowd. He also started "Gospel and Race" groups discussing racial reconciliation using Miles McPherson's book *The Third Option*. Though the church has always had local missions, historically it tended to emphasize global missions. But Holmstrom has doubled down on local missions, Gunderson says, because younger generations feel called to meet the needs of their local communities.

"We're doing microsites throughout Pomona," Gunderson says. "Sometimes, for people in the areas of greatest need, it's easier to take church to them rather than to get them to come to our church. We started microsite worship services at four or five of the neediest areas of Pomona." Under new leadership, they've also begun emphasizing collaboration among staff. "I would just have everybody in their silos, and was kind of the grand referee," Gunderson observes, "but Eric comes in and says, let's have a much more collaborative, unified vision that we are all into. Not just kind of everybody doing their own thing."

That's what it comes down to: partnership and collaboration, not just between Gunderson and Holmstrom. All levels of staff, and the entire congregation, are willing to embrace change for the sake of the gospel being carried forward.

- Jessica Hanewinckel

BY REGION

—The Fastest-Growing Churches in America—



WEST

STATE	CITY	CHURCH	RANK	EST.
CA	Bakersfield	Discovery Church	14	2013
CA	Chula Vista	EastLake Church	21	1991
CA	Fontana	Water of Life Community Church	8	1990
CA	Hemet	Community Christian Church	40	1981
CA	Irvine	Mariners Church	17	1965
CA	La Mesa	Skyline Church	4	1954
CA	Pomona	Purpose Church	52	1870
CA	Porter Ranch	Shepherd Church	2	1963
CA	San Diego	Rock Church	42	2000
CO	Colorado Springs	Trace Church	27	2016
CO	Lafayette	Flatirons Community Church	94	1984
NV	Las Vegas	The Crossing, A Christian Church	81	2000
WA	Mill Creek	Venture Church	77	2004

THE RACE
marked out for us

**AND LET US RUN
WITH PERSEVERANCE
THE RACE MARKED OUT
FOR US**



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