

Christian Life Center - Profile

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In six years, Christian Life Center (CLC) will celebrate a century in Santa Cruz, California. With its rich history as a landmark Assemblies of God church, CLC is today a small, feisty, caring, and generous community, well-positioned for growth and expanded outreach.

CLC is literally on Mission (Street) striving to be a church where people are encouraged, equipped and empowered to impact our community and beyond for Christ.

The current core of believers at CLC is committed to seeing greater impact under the direction of a caring and visionary pastor, prayerfully rooted in biblical doctrine and with a proven history of vibrant pastoral leadership. CLC encourages people to abide in Christ and to be eagerly open and obedient to the Holy Spirit.

Two Santa Cruz County churches merged with CLC in the early 2000's. This added to CLC's unique blessing of owning three parsonages in the county, along with its inviting, warmly upgraded two-story church building on the west side of Santa Cruz, built in 1956. In close proximity to Santa Cruz High School and the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), CLC is also near the beautiful surf of Monterey Bay.

For about sixty years, CLC was a primary landing spot for students, faculty and staff from nearby Bethany (Bible) College/University and UCSC. CLC played a significant role in the launching of local, national and international ministries such as [Missionettes](#), [Assist International](#), [Royal Family Kids Camp Monterey Bay](#), [YES! Young Enough to Serve](#) and most recently *Chi Alpha Santa Cruz*. And the church has been a vital, active partner with *Young Life*, including their recent expansion into Africa, as well as sending and faithfully supporting missionaries around the world.

Currently active ministries include Second Harvest Food Bank, Operation Christmas Child, Mothers of Preschoolers, and Prayer Gatherings, both midweek and every morning. CLC also enjoys a strong relationship with both Men's and Women's Teen Challenge in the area, with Teen Challenge men attending each Sunday.

Children's ministry has remained steady and fruitful for years. With a recent surge of new babies and young children, family-oriented ministry is essential, highlighting a need to quickly address gaps in student ministries' leadership. Adults in their later years are a valued part of this fellowship, contributing not just financially but actively serving as well. As a close-knit family, CLC values both peer-to-peer and intergenerational relationships.

CLC is looking for a pastor who:

- Prioritizes prayer in his/her private life, public ministry and leadership.
- Has an exceptional understanding of God's Word and ability to communicate.

- Aligns with Assemblies of God doctrine and polity.
- Is relational with a genuine love for people.
- Has an established history of building and working with leaders/teams.
- Values all generations and knows how to foster intergenerational unity.
- Can reach younger generations, and both young and established families.
- Is a student of culture, with a heart for a postmodern, post-Christian community.
- Is a strategic visionary with the gift of faith and the ability to plan and operationalize.
- Has proven ability in building maturity pathways, leading to a vibrant, Spirit-driven community of disciples who make disciples.
- Has a high EQ and models good health spiritually, physically, and relationally (marriage, family, and other relationships).
- Understands work/life balance.

Santa Cruz is a beautiful and interesting city. Most people living here feel incredibly blessed. With its Mediterranean climate, beautiful ocean beaches, good surfing, towering redwoods, clean air, and sincere appreciation of nature, it is definitely a place where people want to live.

A desirable tourist destination, Santa Cruz is also a liberal city and revels in its eclectic quirkiness. "*Keep Santa Cruz weird*" is a common bumper sticker.

Spiritually, people are open, and their openness has often led them into Eastern mysticism, other New Age and postmodern expressions, and sometimes the occult. Many in this community distrust '*organized religion*' and Christianity, and Santa Cruz (*City of the Holy Cross*) has become largely unchurched. Expanding into other regions of Santa Cruz County, church engagement is more common, along with a more tolerant range of liberal and conservative ideologies.

Santa Cruz tends to be predominantly white, with a strong presence of Hispanics as well. Homelessness and drug addiction are common in the City of Santa Cruz, generally less so in surrounding areas.

Housing prices in the area are high. Thankfully, CLC's parsonages can help make transition to this expensive community more reasonable.

The current congregation (of close to a hundred) is prayerful, hopeful and resilient. CLC has a strong, unified elder board and is in good shape financially. As the next pastor takes the helm, the church looks forward to a rebuilding of the staff, currently an open slate.