



**Starting** and  
**strengthening**  
churches together  
worldwide



# So the world will know

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:18**

**C**onverge is a movement of churches working to help people meet, know and follow Jesus. We do this by starting and strengthening churches together worldwide.

For over 165 years we've helped churches like yours bring life change to communities in the U.S. and around the world through church planting and discipleship multiplication, leadership training and coaching and global missions.

We are rooted in the gospel and the infallible, inerrant word of God and the need for every person to surrender to Jesus for salvation. Our goal is to give every person the opportunity to hear the gospel, say "yes" to Jesus, grow in faith, be equipped to serve and be sent out. We are committed to seeing vibrant churches in every community, state and country in our reach. We want every person to experience a life-changing, personal relationship with Jesus.



Our churches come together around something greater than a compelling mission. What brings us together is Christ's completed work on the cross. Because of the cross, we have forgiveness from our past, power for our present and hope for our future. As a result, we converge around the cross to take what Christ has done for us and make it known to others.

Throughout our history we have seen generations of churches, leaders and missionaries join forces through God's power to accomplish the impossible. His command to go and make disciples resonates in our hearts and churches. It is evident in the ministries of our congregations and mission fields.

As we continue to move forward, we are asking God to help us:

### ***Open the front door***

to see more churches started, disciples multiplied and missionaries sent out.

### ***Close the back door***

to develop more healthy, growing churches and leaders.

### ***Tear down the walls***

to expand our cultural diversity and address racial barriers to advance the gospel.

### ***Build the house***

to increase collaboration and resources needed to start and strengthen more churches.

We believe this emphasis will result in more followers of Jesus—who are focused on the mission of Jesus.

# START

*We start new churches because the message of Jesus brings hope to the world.*

We're committed to starting missionally minded churches until every people group and community has heard the gospel. We start churches that start churches to see lives changed with Christ's love and truth. Converge Church Planting provides a clear pathway for you to plant a new church, campus or to multiply your church. We've created proven strategies, systems and training all designed to improve your success so that more people will have the opportunity to accept Jesus.

## Increase the success of your church plant

Have you been called to plant a church? How can you know for sure? And what does it take to succeed? Converge's highly-trusted Church Planting Assessment Center minimizes the risk by thoroughly vetting church planters for predictable success. Led by trained assessors, we provide a personalized and thorough assessment of each candidate. We help church planters discern their calling, fit in ministry and capacity to be the lead pastor on a planting team.

Converge also provides each church planter personalized coaching, practical training, relevant resources and tested strategies that work in the community in which you plant. You'll be able to implement proven systems that will help increase the long-term success of your church plant.

More importantly, you'll be part of a family with other experienced church planters and mentors to support you, enthusiastic and invested partners who want to see you succeed.



## Parent a church or multiply your own

If you're ready to launch a new church or campus, Converge has already created a proven pathway you can implement now. Rather than committing your own resources (time, money, people) on developing church planting or multiplication systems, we can partner with you to start more healthy congregations.

Our expertise in church planter assessment, coaching, funding strategies and church residencies to raise up new leaders can help you multiply faster. As partners on the same mission, we're more effective working together to reach more people with the gospel.

“From the moment my wife and I stepped into the world of church planting in 2006, Converge Southwest, its leadership and network family has been there with us every step of the way. Whether it was the personal investment, grant funds, coaching or the value equity poured into us, Converge Southwest set us up for total success. They exemplify what Converge embraces—we are better together!”

**Brad Wilkerson**  
Lead pastor of COC Metro church, TX  
and Vision Texas Coach



# STRENGTHEN



Healthy churches enjoy what God is doing today among the people who make up their congregation. They see people come to Christ on a regular basis and flourish as they accomplish their purpose and mission. They also engage in church planting and missions so that others may know Jesus. To accomplish all this, a church needs healthy leaders and systems, plus close relationships with other like-minded churches. Through assessment, coaching and covering, strategic planning and supportive networks, Converge's Church Strengthening team helps you maximize your God-given potential to fulfill your mission.

*We strengthen existing churches. Strong churches are led by strong leaders. So we equip leaders to expand their ministry impact and fulfill the unique calling God has given them.*

Converge trains you with the tools you need to grow as a leader and develop new leaders. We teach you how to break growth barriers, create effective outreach and discipleship strategies and become financially self-sustaining to increase ministry impact and reach more people in your community for Jesus.

Staying connected with other leaders in ministry is vital. Our coaching and covering networks provide the support you need to maintain spiritual, emotional and physical health so that your ministry and personal life thrive. You will have a safe place to share your challenges and celebrate all God is accomplishing through your church. To support the crucial role of women serving in the church, Converge encourages, equips and empowers female leaders to become all God has for them.

Whether you are stuck or flourishing, we want your church to be healthy, and for you to have the support you need for longevity in ministry.

“It's been an amazing journey working with Converge Southwest. They've been incredibly supportive while we've been without a lead pastor. The staff has been a great help during our search process. Recently, both Bruce Sumner and Bill Ankerberg preached at LifeBridge Church. We could not have done this successfully without them.”

**Rick Johnson**  
Chairman of the Board, LifeBridge Church, CA

# SEND

*As we anticipate the second coming of Jesus, many in the world haven't heard of his first coming. So together we ask God to create a gospel movement among every least-reached people group—in our generation.*

**W**e want all people to know Jesus, but because most missionaries serve in already-evangelized countries, we focus on the least-reached peoples of the world. We equip leaders to create movements that impact individuals, communities and regions through the power of the gospel. With this focus, people who have never heard the name of Jesus will have the chance to hear and accept the good news.

## Extending your reach

Our greatest privilege is joining Jesus in what he is building: his church. When we reach across the street and around the world with the gospel—locally *and* globally—we impact lives for eternity.



“Converge helped us strategize how to better reach the nations. Because of this we plan to adopt two unengaged, unreached people groups. I am deeply encouraged this is the global outreach priority of Converge International Ministries. We truly are better together.”

**Carlton P. Harris**  
Senior pastor of College Avenue  
Baptist Church, CA

Converge International Ministries can help your church develop effective missions strategies and opportunities to reach people with the gospel in key areas of the world. By tapping into our cross-cultural expertise in assessing and training missionaries, you can focus on sending the right people to the right places, increasing the effectiveness of your missions ministry so you can make greater kingdom impact worldwide. And the people in your church will develop a heart for missions and grow in their relationship with Jesus by learning to support and serve in missions.

In addition, we have developed ways to help your church reach the diverse population in your community. Training is available to help your church become better cross-cultural witnesses, start an immigrant church or connect with a citywide strategy so that more people from every culture can respond to Jesus.

## Sending missionaries

Missionaries are an important part of how God accomplishes his mission. Our 145+ strategically placed missionaries in more than 35 countries are leading the lost to Christ, starting church planting movements and developing national leaders.

Before a missionary is sent, Converge's Missionary Assessment Center helps your church discern potential missionaries' spiritual, psychological and cultural fit for missions, and areas in which they need to grow. God has gifted potential missionaries in your congregation.

Converge connects the *right missionaries* to the *right opportunity* and equips them with the *right tools* they can take to the field. We provide support-raising strategies, training, prayer and encouragement to effectively share the gospel. Missionaries and their families receive personalized care from our team, including health insurance and a retirement savings plan to keep them healthy on and off the field.

# Your local team

As modeled by our Lord, strong relationships are a key to ministry and mission effectiveness. The leaders you meet, get to know and grow with will improve and empower you for greater ministry impact. Across Converge you will meet lifelong friends, engage with co-laborers and share the joys and challenges of following God's call in your life.

Converge is made up of 11 geographic districts across the U.S. to serve you and your church as you fulfill Christ's mission. Each district is led by an executive minister with a team ready to support churches, pastors and staff in their region.

Your Converge district team provides localized services such as:

- Strategic planning
- Church planting and multiplication support
- Church assessment and revitalization
- Personalized training and coaching
- Pastoral placement and care
- Financial and legal advice
- Ethnic ministries
- Camps, mission trips and retreats

Engaging with your district team is the first and best way to strengthen your individual ministry and that of your church. We encourage every pastor to participate in a regional team—because a team always outperforms the individual. Working together, regional teams implement a strategy to expand impact through church planting, missions or community-reaching strategies, while encouraging one another in individual church ministries.

In addition to your local district team, your church has the support of the Converge national team to unify and strengthen our efforts as a movement. Together, Converge is family of churches where you can connect to other leaders to receive support, encouragement and prayer to help fulfill your calling and make a greater kingdom impact.

## The Converge Southwest team serves churches in:

Arizona, Southern California, Southern Nevada, Southern New Mexico and Texas



**Bruce Sumner**  
*Executive Minister*  
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**Kym Sumner**  
*Director, GraceNet Ministry*  
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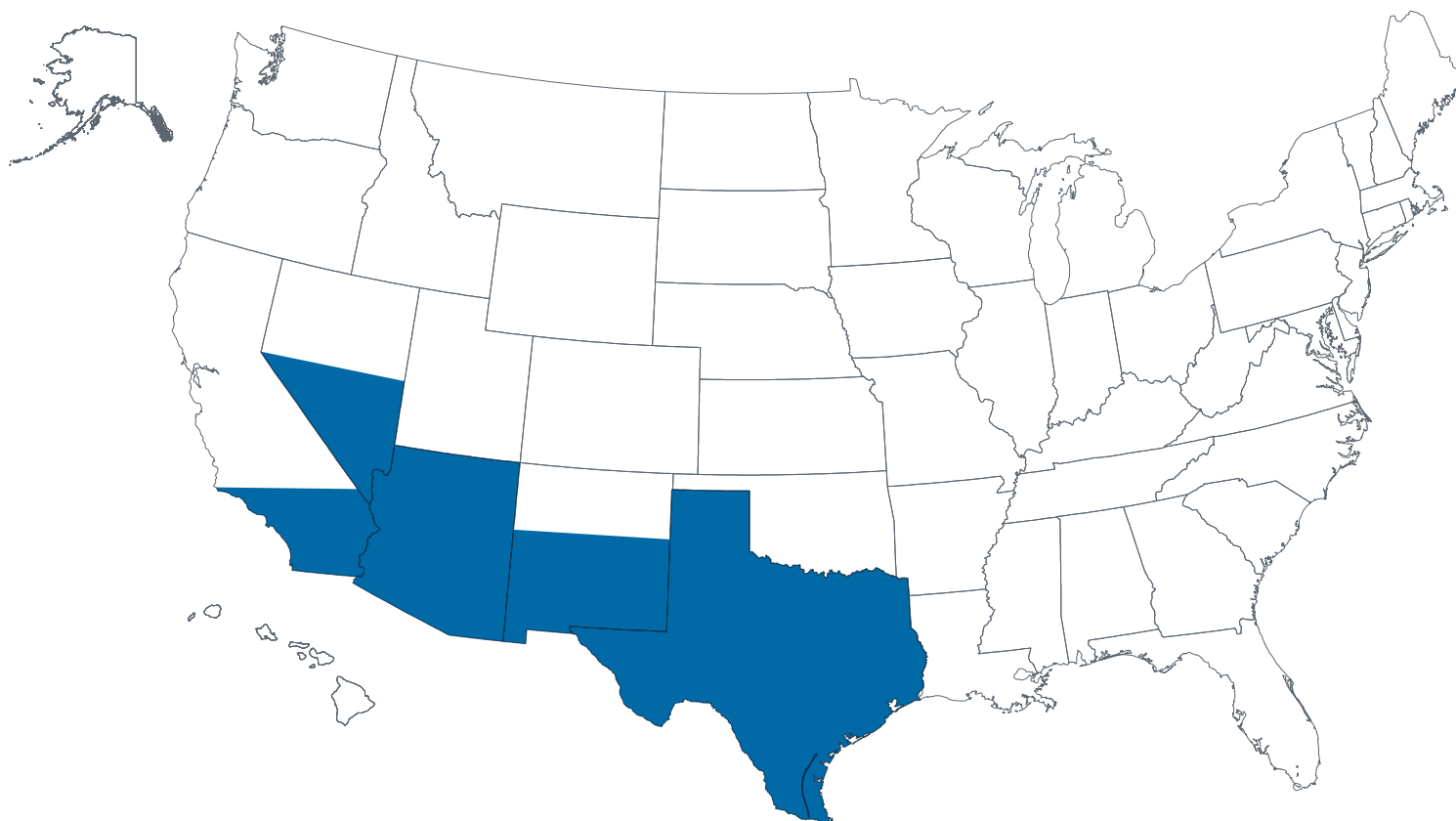
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## Why join Converge?

The church is not a building you sit in, it is a movement you choose to be part of. When you join Converge, you become part of a movement of like-minded evangelical churches focused on the mission of Jesus. We are spiritually dynamic, relationally devoted, missionally driven and culturally diverse.

You get a family that will walk with you, brothers and sisters that will sharpen you, coaches that will train you and a team that will minister with you. This includes, among other things:

**Supportive relationships** – Ministry is a collaborative effort. Converge provides a tribe to belong to and friends to encourage, support, advise and challenge you.

**Shared expertise** – We are generous with everything we learn and willingly give away what we know. Those who have "been there, done that" share their learnings with those who are striving for greater impact.

**Leadership development** – We can help you develop in your leadership role as you raise up and empower other leaders for Christ's mission.

Our greatest hope and privilege is to honor God with our lives and help each other along that journey.

## What do we expect from you?

God designed us to live for something bigger than ourselves and our churches. So our movement of autonomous congregations choose to work together, starting and strengthening churches and sending missionaries. Their collaboration includes participation in resourcing those efforts locally and globally.

Our prayer is that every individual would lead someone to Christ and disciple him or her: *Each One Reach One, Each One Raise One*. And we call every church to start a congregation and send a missionary: *Each One Start One, Each One Send One*.

We ask each pastor to develop relationships with other Converge pastors and district leaders by participating in national and regional initiatives: LEAD Teams, coaching, trainings, events and conferences.



We ask each church to become a percentage giver to the following Converge ministries: first to your district, second to local church planting and third to the national movement. Supporting the district and national ministries gives your church real partnership in a dynamic worldwide movement—and joy and hope as you see God transform lives and communities.

## With you every step

Converge churches and pastors also have access to additional services and resources, including individualized coaching, training events and conferences, as well as:

### Lifetime income in retirement

The Converge Retirement Plan helps provide added financial security in retirement to pastors, staff and commissioned missionaries. Unlike other plans, participants enjoy the benefit of a pension, continued housing allowance (even in retirement) and a defined contribution to build additional savings.

### Funding for ministry expansion

Partnering with churches since 1954, the Converge Cornerstone Fund provides competitive loans for church construction, expansion and remodeling, or refinancing an existing mortgage. The Fund also offers special investment opportunities designed to help churches and individuals earn a favorable rate on their savings and emergency funds.

### Leaving a legacy

The Converge Foundation provides a way for members of your congregation to participate in the mission of Jesus through endowments and estate planning. The Foundation can accept cash, securities or in-kind gifts directed to specific ministries such as church planting or missions.







## Better together

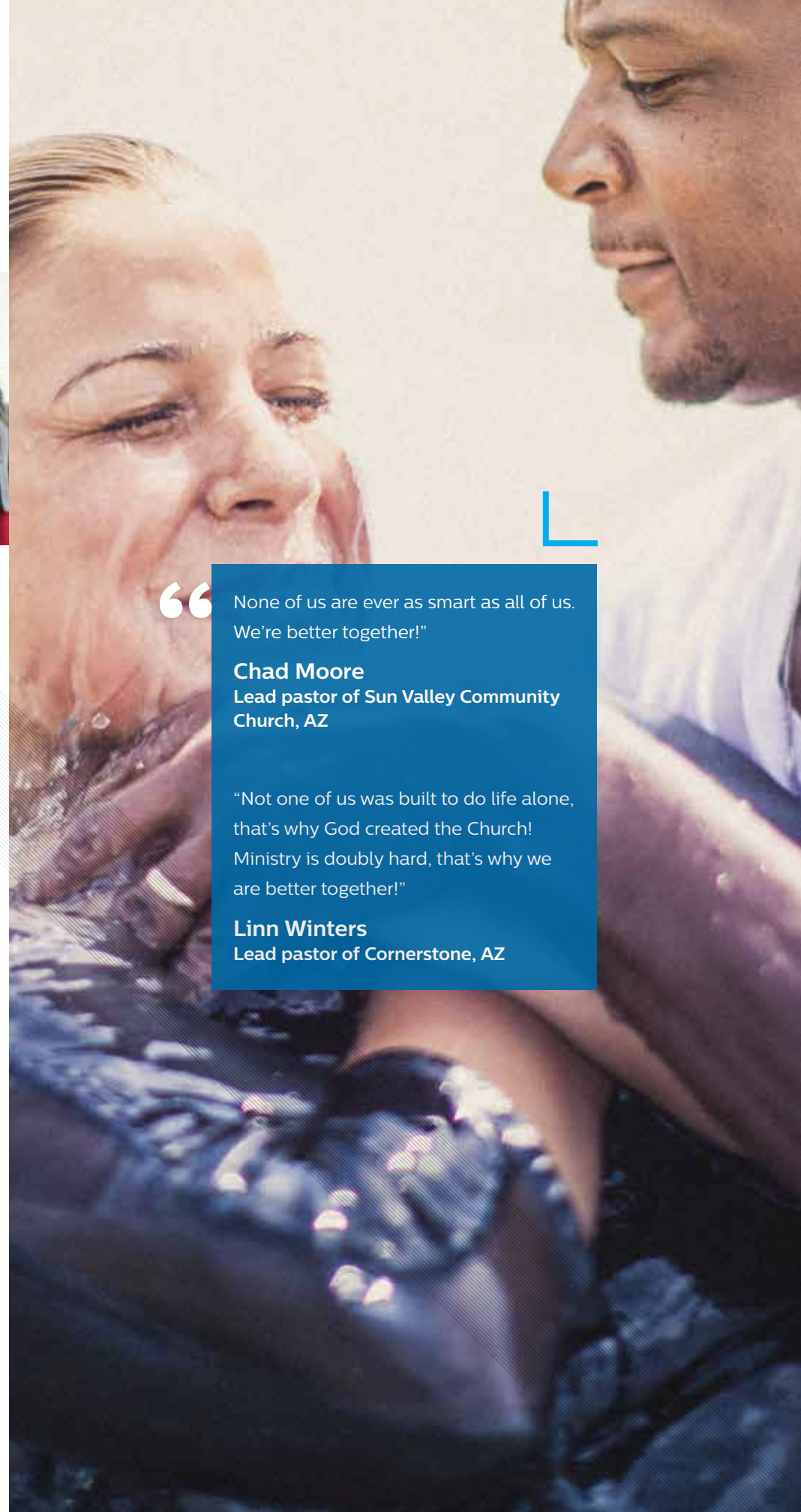
Some churches don't believe they need to be part of a movement. They are confident they can accomplish ministry without the help of others. Yet in hard times, where do they turn?

Imagine partnering with other like-minded churches, pastors, staff and congregations—all working together to accomplish the same goal. Your goal. Our goal. God's goal: *helping people meet, know and follow Jesus.*

What if you could take more ground for the kingdom, faster and better? Would it be worth joining the team?

More than an official welcome, you will enter into partnership with a vibrant group of missional leaders. And you will establish relationships that strengthen you personally as well as the ministry of your church. You'll be part of a global ministry eager to help see Christ's Great Commission completed in this generation.

***Join us at [convergesw.org](http://convergesw.org)***



“

None of us are ever as smart as all of us.  
We're better together!”

**Chad Moore**  
Lead pastor of Sun Valley Community  
Church, AZ

“Not one of us was built to do life alone,  
that's why God created the Church!  
Ministry is doubly hard, that's why we  
are better together!”

**Linn Winters**  
Lead pastor of Cornerstone, AZ





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