

IN MISSION

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. You will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

CNH Mission Agency and LINC Bay Area

The CNH Mission Agency has been an intentional participant in the forming of LINC Bay Area. Together with Prince of Peace in Fremont, Good Shepherd in Hayward, and also other Bay Area congregations and lay leaders, we are excited about the potential of this effort. We recognize the three main pillars of LINC: (to *develop new leaders, develop new churches and develop renewed communities*), as essential in affecting positive change, making disciples and ultimately planting churches in our Bay Area cities. Our partnership is intentional, including funding, training, and people support. We will be deliberate about recognizing and supporting LINC Bay Area as the Mission Agency's church planting arm in the greater Bay Area, working as an umbrella organization but also as partners alongside the efforts of LINC. The partnership and sponsoring of LINC Bay Area by LINC Houston offers much needed expertise, legitimacy, and allows a fast start as the actual ministry efforts of LINC Bay Area ramp up.



LINC Bay Area

Mentored by the original LINC organization in Houston, Texas, Aaron Putnam has been contracted to start a LINC ministry in the Bay Area by a city leadership team with members from several Bay Area congregations and CNH Mission's Director, Michael Lange. LINC's mission is raising up indigenous leaders within their community to be the church in their own cultural context.

This work has already begun in the CNH District in partnership with Pastor Tesfai Tesema and the Addis Kidan congregation in San Francisco, California. LINC Bay Area is also working with Vicar Dawit Bokre and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hayward, California. Other partnerships for LINC Bay Area are taking shape with local congregations for one-day youth Bay Area events to kick start a network and friendships with youth and young adults in the region. LINC is working intentionally with the CNH Mission Agency to assist Temesgen Dabsu in planting a new Oromo church in the Bay Area.



What is LINC?

The face of the Bay Area is changing from what it was even in the post-World War II era. Of the 7.5 million people who live in the Bay Area, one out of every three people are foreign-born and one out of every two children have at least one foreign-born parent. More than 120 languages are spoken to make the Bay Area one of the most racially/ethnically diverse areas in the country. At times, this stands in contrast to LCMS demographics.

LINC Bay Area is a strategic network of people, churches and organizations that collaborate in God's work to restore the people of the Bay Area through Christ. Our purpose is to plant, nurture and equip groups of new believers throughout the Bay Area. The three main objectives to achieve this vision are to *develop new leaders, develop new churches and develop renewed communities.*

Aaron Putnam brings plenty of experience in different cultures and locations. Growing up as a self-described pastor's kid, he lived in Oregon, Montana, New Mexico, Missouri, Georgia and Indiana. Putnam received a bachelor's degree in biology from Willamette University in Oregon and a Master's degree in teaching from Lewis & Clark College in Oregon. After a time as a high school science teacher, Putnam moved to Guatemala as a LCMS volunteer missionary. While there, he met his wife Sofia and together they have four sons (Javier, Seth, Josue and Marcos).

With plans to start a "Discipleship Boot Camp" and a "Church Planter Boot Camp" this fall, there is excitement building in this mission field with individuals and congregations who are looking to partner together.

LINC Prayers

1. That the people of the Bay Area are restored to God and each other through Christ.
2. For an expanding network of partnering individuals, congregations and organizations in the Bay Area that share and support this vision.
3. That the Lord would raise up new local missionary leaders to be identified, recruited, trained and deployed in the Bay Area.
4. For an increasing trust in Christ and the wisdom of His Spirit.
5. That the Lord would allow for the planting of new churches that are faithful to God's Word and also have the desire to renew their communities and plant more churches.

