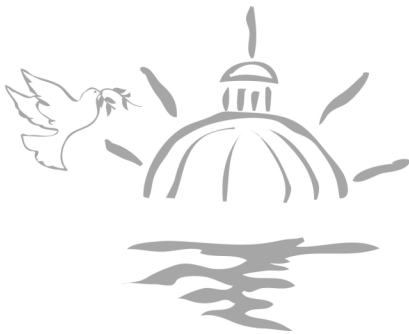


California
Council of **CHURCHES**

Annual Report 2007

*Mobilizing California's prophetic spiritual activists
for justice since 1913!*



California
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California Council of Churches Program Summaries

The mission of the California Council of Churches is to be a prophetic witness to the Gospel by educating faith communities to pursue justice, equity and fairness in the treatment of all people, in particular those most vulnerable in our society.

The California Council of Churches, formed in 1913 and incorporated in 1937, represents 51 judicatories and denominations with more than 4,000 congregations and over 1.5 million people throughout the state of California. With denominations, congregations, and other groups and individuals, we work together to promote justice, peacemaking, and the well-being of all people of California and educate people regarding social justice issues such as those relating to food and family, health care, the environment, civil rights, and violence prevention, among others.

The work of California Council of Churches has been varied and extensive throughout 2007. Although we have trained people for several years on faith principles informing health care, this year took on a special urgency since several bills were in the Legislature on this key issue. The Council has therefore been actively educating our members and others around faith principles and guidelines that will inform any health care decision that lies before us. We received two large grants on health care this year that will run through 2009. One is from The California Wellness Foundation, the other through the National Council of Churches from the California Endowment.

Our congregational outreach on health care begins with evaluating what we are called to do to heal the world. Finding scriptural references is not always easy since so much healing is miraculous – and therefore not a useful guide for mere mortals! Still, there are many directives in both Biblical and denominational sources that help us make wise choices. In addition to our study guide *Being the Good Samaritan: Health Access for All Californians*, we compiled links to many of our denominational and some interfaith guides that speak to goals and principles that we need to consider as we make informed decisions on what comprises truly inclusive, equitable, and useful health care for us all.

There have also been many other areas where thoughtful deliberation is needed. We have been active in opposing this nation's immoral descent into the use of torture. Our Director of Public Policy joined the board of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, a Washington, DC-based interfaith organization that works to show that torture is a moral issue. We extended that concern to collaborations with groups serving victims of torture and to groups working against a related issue, human slavery and human trafficking.

The issues of war and peace led us to join "Faithful Security" and to offer a presentation on opposing "Complex 2030", the re-building of this nation's nuclear stockpile. We were fortunate

to have the Rev. Bob Edgar, then General Secretary of the National Council of Churches offer a faith-grounded presentation against nuclear build-up at a forum we presented at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo near the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory that will be involved in such weapons increase.

We actively educated our membership on the deteriorating support of the current administration in Washington, DC for food security and basic human needs. We explained the impacts of budget cuts on resources for the poor, and we joined the Alliance for Democracy in publishing a special, faith-grounded issue of their quarterly periodical, *Justice Rising* featuring aspects of building a moral economy.

In sum, our work in moral leadership has borne fruit throughout the state. Our members, expanding rapidly, eagerly await our trainings, our ‘mini study guides’ on key issues within *Justice Seekers* and implement discussions within congregations around what moral positions we in the faith community are called to do.

• Other

CCC has several other contracts and grants to produce newsletters and publications and to educate religious leaders and congregations on a variety of social and economic justice issues.

- We continue to work in coalition with hundreds of other faith-based and secular organizations working for justice.
- We work hard, in coalition with California Church IMPACT and other faith-based groups, to highlight the educational aspects of **economic justice** in California, including the Budget Accountability Act and working to ensure that our faith communities understand the impact of Gov. Schwarzenegger’s budget proposals on low-income Californians.
- Collectively, our staff and Board members have promoted our vision for justice and equity for all people, in particular those most vulnerable in our society, at hundreds of gatherings, congregations, rallies, press conferences, and more.
- You will see from the following income and expense charts that the Council spent \$44,000 more than we received in 2007. We carried a balance over from 2006 and our Board of Directors has wisely established a \$70,000 line of credit with our bank for use as needed from which we borrowed \$22,000. Our projected income for 2008 will show a significant increase and we are confident we will be able to pay this down.

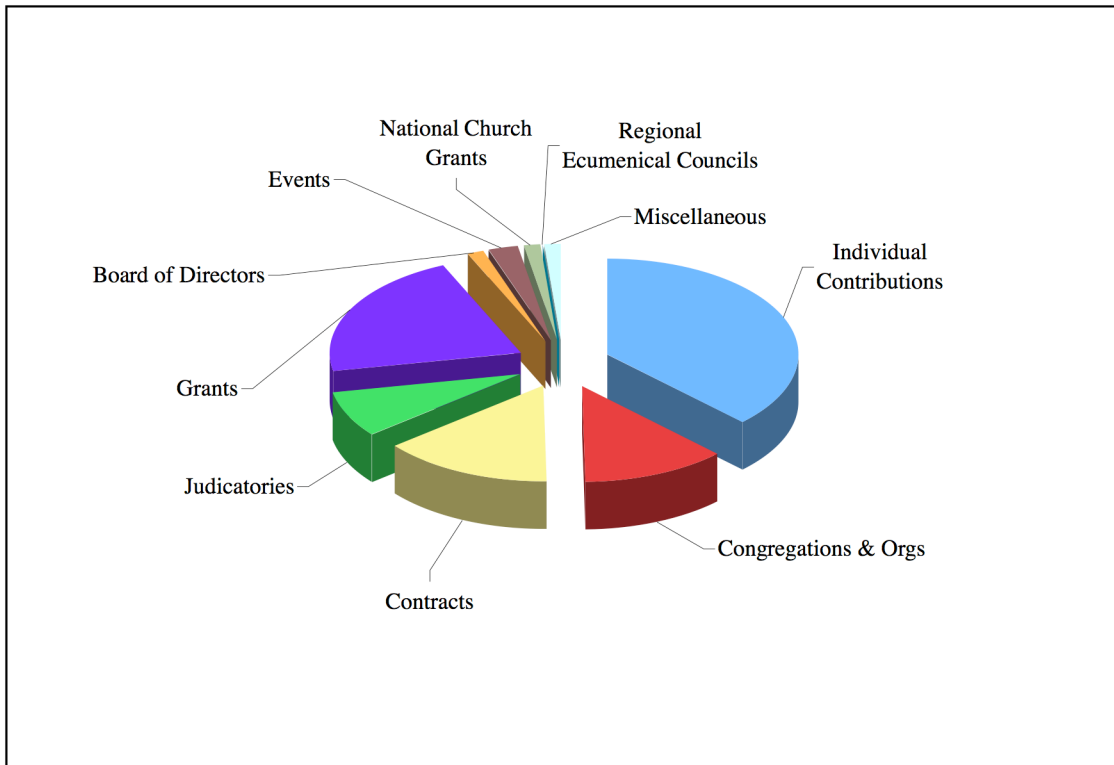
*And what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

— Micah 6:8

California Council of Churches

2007 Revenue

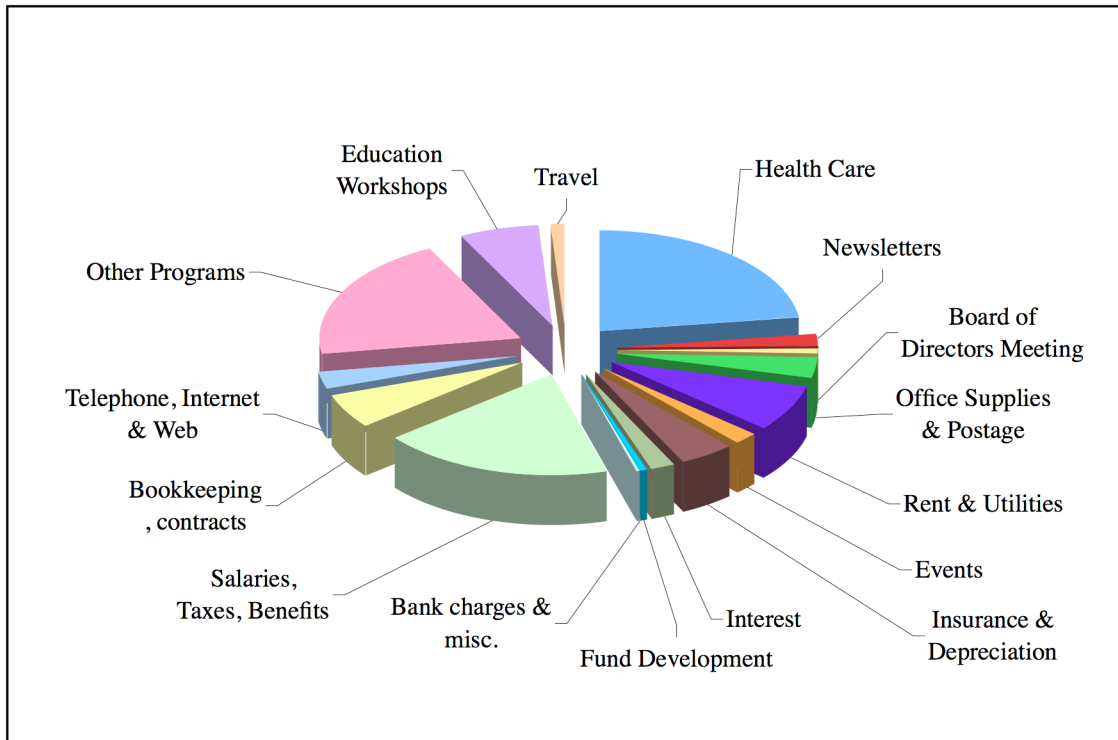
Source	Amount	Percentage
National Church Grants	\$2,500	1%
Ecumenical Orgs	\$250	0%
Judicatories	\$13,555	8%
Individual Contributions	\$63,602	38%
Congregations	\$22,429.87	12%
Board of Directors	\$6,280.20	1%
Grants	\$37,500	21%
Events	\$5,070.00	3%
Contracts	\$14,083.41	15%
Misc	\$4,735.26	1%
Total Revenue	\$175,032	100.00%



California Council of Churches

2007 Expenses

Source	Amount	Percentage
Health Care	\$50,250	22%
Newsletters	\$4,084	2%
Board of Directors Meeting Expense	\$1,869	1%
Office Supplies & Postage	\$7,140	3%
Rent & Utilities	\$16,743	8%
Events	\$4,212	2%
Insurance & Depreciation	\$9,631	4%
Interest	\$4,169	2%
Fund Development	\$1,200	1%
Bank charges & misc.	\$597	0%
Salaries, Taxes, Benefits	\$40,949	19%
Bookkeeping, contracts	\$12,190	6%
Telephone, Internet & Web	\$6,260	3%
Other Programs	\$43,402	19%
Education Workshops	\$14,468	7%
Travel	\$2,143	1%
Totals	\$219,307	100%



California Church IMPACT Program Summaries

The mission of California Church IMPACT is to be a prophetic witness to the Gospel by advocating in the public policy arena for justice, equity and fairness in the treatment of all people, in particular those most vulnerable in our society.

California Church IMPACT, the legislative advocacy sister organization of the Council, was in the forefront of organizing voices to help shape various legislative proposals for universal health care in California. As part of two coalitions, “It’s OUR Healthcare” and “OneCareNow,” we worked to find and promote effective legislation that would cover all California residents with comprehensive, accessible, and affordable health care. We helped to build a network of advocates throughout the state that would inform both policy makers and opinion leaders of what was essential in a high-quality health care program. In the end, however, we found that the major bills that were on the table, first AB 8 then ABX1 1, were inconsistent with what both the Council and IMPACT believed essential to secure that reform.

We have long opposed individual mandates that people had to buy health insurance policies in a largely unregulated private market. Legislative proposals that had too little assurance of what would be covered and what it would cost were poor candidates for a truly moral health care plan. When the final bill incorporated mandates with no coverage or cost specified, but with the Governor’s stated preference for one that would carry a \$5,000 deductible and the possibility of \$10,000 more out of pocket every year, it became clear that we could not support such a plan. Furthermore, it left large numbers of people uninsured – those working part time, those who would be unemployed, widows, those who were divorced – that would be forced into the private market at whatever the market demanded of them. Costs linked to market criteria rather than to what people can afford make a dangerous situation for individuals and families.

We put out a call to our members to oppose such a horrendous plan. We saw our work come to fruition when Senators defeated the plan often referring to the issues IMPACT members alone had raised. Victory is not easily counted in the defeat of something, but we were proud that our stand on principle led our legislators to take the same position and to oppose a bill that could, easily, do more harm than good.

Our advocacy against torture also bore fruit, this time in the passage of HR 2082, the house bill with Section 327 banning the use of torture by any American entity, including the CIA. Although it may be vetoed, this was a huge step toward re-establishing a moral center for American actions in times of conflict. Our members both in California and around the country responded by contacting their Representatives and our two Senators, and we got the bill passed by significant majorities.

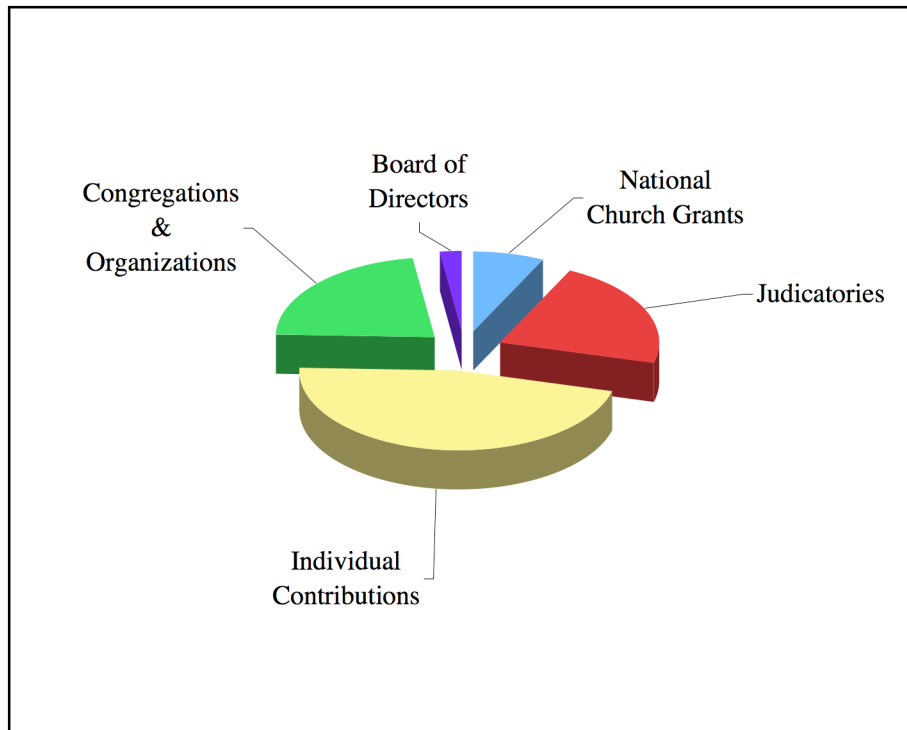
*But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

— Amos 5:24

California Church IMPACT

2007 Revenue

Source	Amount	Percentage
National Church Grants	\$2,500	7%
Judicatories	\$7,500	22%
Individual Contributions	\$15,867	47%
Congregations/Orgs	\$7,588	22%
Board of Directors	\$806	2%
Total Revenue	\$34,261	100.00%



California Church IMPACT

2007 Expenses

Source	Amount	Percentage
Advocacy & Workshops	\$23,165	65%
Postage	\$2,447	7%
Printing & Supplies	\$875	2%
Subscriptions & Memberships	\$63	0%
Computer Networks & Web	\$5,200	14%
Board of Directors Expense	\$797	2%
Rent & Utilities	\$1,746	5%
Depreciation	\$250	1%
Fund Development	\$1,105	3%
Bookkeeping Expense	\$410	1%
Travel	\$139	0%
Miscellaneous	\$43	0%
Total	\$36,240	100%

