



La Jolla Presbyterian Church

Summer Internship Program 2026

Program Overview

The La Jolla Presbyterian Church (LJPC) Summer Internship Program is a **10-week immersive formation experience** designed for college students and young adults who are exploring vocational ministry, leadership, and spiritual formation. This paid internship integrates **hands-on ministry experience** with **intentional discipleship**, offering interns space to serve, learn, reflect, and grow in community.

Interns will participate in two core components:

1. **Ministry Practicum** – Practical, supervised ministry in a chosen area
2. **Discipleship & Formation** – Weekly theological and spiritual formation led by Rev. Dr. Sheri Perenon

This program is ideal for students discerning a call to ministry, seeking leadership development, or desiring a deeper understanding of how faith is lived out in the local church.

Program Structure

1. Ministry Practicum (Primary Focus)

Interns will select **one primary ministry track** based on interest, gifts, and vocational curiosity. Each intern will be mentored by a ministry supervisor and actively participate in weekly planning, execution, and reflection.

Available Ministry Tracks:

Children's Ministry – Supporting faith formation for elementary-aged children through Sunday programming, midweek gatherings, curriculum preparation, and family engagement.

Middle School Ministry – Assisting with weekly gatherings, small groups, summer activities, relational ministry, and student discipleship.

High School Ministry – Supporting youth gatherings, mentoring students, helping lead discussions, and participating in retreats or service opportunities.

Hospitality Ministry – Helping create a welcoming environment through Sunday hospitality, event coordination, volunteer support, and congregational care.

Worship Ministry – Assisting with worship planning, rehearsals, service flow, and worship leadership (musical skills helpful but not required).

Tech & Media Ministry – Supporting audio/visual production, livestream, slides, and digital communication for worship and events.

Interns will spend the majority of their weekly hours in their chosen ministry area, gaining real-world experience in church leadership and collaboration.

2. Discipleship & Formation (Core Weekly Experience)

The discipleship component is intentionally designed to shape the **inner life, theology, and leadership character** of each intern. This portion of the program will be led by **Rev. Dr. Sheri Perenon**, with a focus on holistic spiritual formation.

Discipleship Elements Include: - Weekly cohort gatherings - Scripture study and theological reflection - Spiritual practices (prayer, Sabbath, silence, discernment) - Vocational discernment and calling - Leadership development and self-awareness - Guided reflection on ministry experiences

Interns will journey together in community, learning how to integrate faith, leadership, and daily life while being mentored by experienced pastoral leadership.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the internship, participants will: - Gain practical experience in a local church ministry context - Develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills - Grow in spiritual maturity and theological understanding - Discern personal gifts, passions, and potential vocational calling - Learn how discipleship shapes ministry and leadership

Program Details

- **Location:** La Jolla Presbyterian Church, La Jolla, CA
 - **Term: June–August 2026** (exact start and end dates to be determined by applicant)
 - **Time Commitment:** 40 hours a week.
 - **Compensation:** \$17.25 hr
 - **Housing: Housing available if needed** (details to be discussed upon acceptance)
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Who Should Apply

This internship is open to: - Undergraduate or graduate students - Students exploring vocational ministry or nonprofit leadership - Individuals seeking intentional discipleship within a church setting - Those eager to learn, serve, and grow in community

No prior ministry experience is required—only a teachable spirit, commitment to growth, and willingness to serve.

Application Process

Applicants need to submit to sherip@ljpres.org:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Ministry of choice/s [Kids, MSM, HSM, Hospitality, Worship, or Tech & Media]
- Two references

If selected, applicants will be invited to an interview.

About La Jolla Presbyterian Church

La Jolla Presbyterian Church is a Christ-centered, community-rooted congregation committed to forming disciples, serving the local community, and equipping leaders for God's work in the world. We value thoughtful faith, authentic relationships, and the integration of belief and practice.

For questions or application information, please contact: sherip@ljpres.org