

## A Brief History of L.O.G. Communities

L.O.G. is one of many adaptations of the Roman Catholic Cursillo (pronounced cur-SEE-o) Movement, which originated in Spain in 1949. Cursillo de Cristianidad means "little course in Christianity."

Cursillo came to U.S. Catholics in the 1950's. Since that time, many expressions of the program have been established in Protestant churches in the U.S. Similar programs exist in Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist and Episcopalian churches, including Walk to Emmaus, The Great Banquet, Tres Días, De Colores for adults and Chrysalis, Awakening, Teens Encountering Christ for youth. A similar program, Kairos, reaches out to incarcerated individuals.

In the mid 1980's, the senior high youth group of Novato Presbyterian Church in Novato, CA attended a "Search" retreat sponsored by a Cursillo community in the Reno, NV area. They returned home with the intention of starting a similar program only to find that a local church was already using "Search" as the name for one of their programs. The Novato group decided to call their new program "Love Of God."

In 1988, the Goleta Presbyterian Church in Goleta, CA sent four students and an adult to experience Novato's L.O.G. retreat. The following spring, Novato sent a team to plant L.O.G. with the Goleta church.

In 1992 the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Bellevue, WA sent three students and one adult to Goleta to attend L.O.G. In August, 1993 a team from Goleta traveled to Bellevue to help plant a L.O.G. community there. Bellevue helped form communities in Redmond, Kent and Wapato, WA. In 1995, Goleta helped form a L.O.G. community in Carpinteria, CA (a town 20 miles from Goleta) with the Carpinteria Community Church. In 1997 students from Goleta traveled to the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of South Bend, IN to help form the community there. In 2002, Goleta students helped form the L.O.G. community at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, CA.

In 2007 the South Bend L.O.G. community formed Michiana Youth Ministries, a validated ministry of the Presbytery. They began serving a broader geographic area and offer six L.O.G. retreats per year. In addition they started a jr. high program and added an additional program for students who long to delve deeper into their faith. In 2011 South Bend started a L.O.G. retreat with a local residential alternative school.

In August, 2012, 30 students from South Bend will travel to Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church in NJ to help form a community here. They will bring students, adults and supplies. Our churches will provide food and a location. We are working with Lawrence Road, Ewing, Covenant (Trenton), and Plainsboro Presbyterian Churches to gather students to form our community here. A second retreat is tentatively planned for November 30-December 2, with New Jersey students and adult volunteers forming the team.

L.O.G. is flexible and evolves with the needs of its community. There is no national umbrella organization for L.O.G. or any requirement to function in a particular way. The communities in Novato, Goleta, South Bend, and Los Gatos continue to thrive, and all of their retreats have adapted and changed over time. The retreats are recognizable to one another, but over time our habits and liturgical practices have diverged. Some use camps that provide food, others prefer to recruit parents to cook. The songs, the skits, and the talks all change over time, depending on program and student needs. New Jersey will have its own flavor as well, taking on the culture of our churches and families.

## Novato Presbyterian Church

(~1985 Novato, CA)

The Novato community is still thriving,  
and has planted L.O.G. programs in several other communities



## Goleta Presbyterian Church

(1989 Goleta, CA)

The Goleta community completed their 46<sup>th</sup> retreat in April 2012.  
They have planted L.O.G. programs in Bellevue WA, Carpinteria CA,  
South Bend IN, and Los Gatos, CA.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of South Bend

(1997 South Bend, IN)

The South Bend community began as a program  
within a local church, where it thrived for 8 years.

In 2005 Michiana Youth Ministries was formed  
as a validated ministry of the presbytery.



## Michiana Youth Ministries

(2005 South Bend, IN & surrounding areas)

Michiana Youth Ministries formed as a validated ministry of the presbytery  
to serve a broader geographic area. It is a separate non-profit corporation,  
sustained through fundraising, grants, and multi-church support.

The South Bend community has expanded to include six retreats per year, a jr.  
high program, and an additional retreat with a residential alternative school.

In 2012, South Bend students will travel to NJ to plant a L.O.G. community.



## L.O.G. New Jersey

(2012, coordinated by Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church, NJ)

August 9-11, 2012 will be our first retreat. 30 students from Indiana and their  
adult team will bring L.O.G. to help form our community.

We are working with Lawrence Road, Ewing, Covenant (Trenton) and Plainsboro  
churches to gather students who will then form the New Jersey community