

Rev. Danny de León Jr., PhD

Dr. Danny de León Jr. is a seasoned organizational leader, pastor, educator, and community advocate whose work spans nonprofit leadership, higher education, and faith-based community development. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Templo Calvario Community Development Corporation and as Senior Pastor of Templo Calvario Church in Santa Ana, California. His leadership in both spheres reflects a lifelong commitment to advancing community well-being, fostering transformational partnerships, and empowering the next generation.

In addition to his executive and pastoral responsibilities, Dr. de León is an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Vanguard University of Southern California. His academic work focuses on leadership formation, theological engagement, and cultural dynamics within diverse communities. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Vanguard University, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership from Southeastern University. His doctoral research examined the decision-making processes of first-, second-, and third-generation Hispanics in the United States, providing insight into cultural transitions and leadership behaviors within multicultural contexts.

Dr. de León currently serves on several boards, including his role as Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Academic Chair at Vanguard University of Southern California. He also contributes to regional and statewide initiatives through the Santa Ana Task Force, the Orange County Advocacy and Advisory Council for Charter Schools, and the Advocacy Alliance for Corporate Social Responsibility. Across these engagements, he is known for his collaborative leadership style and commitment to advancing equitable access to education, community resources, and faith-based services.

Family remains a central pillar of Dr. de León's life. He and his wife, Kristine, enjoy a vibrant family that includes their children—Danelle, Daniel, Johnathan, and Christopher—all of whom are married—and their four cherished grandchildren, affectionately known as his “grand buddies.”

Dr. de León's leadership is grounded in core values that shape every aspect of his work: he is faith-driven, community-focused, a servant leader, an effective communicator, and a firm believer in the potential of the next generation. These guiding principles continue to define his vision and strengthen his ongoing service to the communities he is privileged to lead.