

## San Diego Leader Roger Haenke Reflects on Three Decades Spanning Healthcare, Education, and Ministry

Following his 2025 retirement from San Diego State University, Haenke continues to serve the San Diego community through ministry and civic engagement

**San Diego, California Mar 5, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com))** - Roger Haenke, a San Diego-based healthcare executive, educator, and minister, has built a career defined by leadership across some of the most demanding sectors in public life. With senior roles at Sharp HealthCare, St. Paul's Senior Services, and Family Health Centers of San Diego behind him — along with a faculty position at San Diego State University from which he retired in 2025 — Haenke now enters a new phase of community involvement grounded in the same principles that have guided his work for more than thirty years.

Haenke's professional background is unusually broad. Ordained in 1991 following graduate theological education, he began his career serving parishes in North Dakota, where he developed foundational skills in organizational leadership, community engagement, and crisis management. He later transitioned into healthcare, earning his nursing credentials and rising through clinical and administrative roles in pediatric specialty care, perinatal and neonatal services, senior care, and community health programs. His work spanned healthcare systems in Minnesota, Washington, and California before he settled in the San Diego region.

In San Diego, Haenke held senior leadership positions overseeing nursing operations, program development, regulatory compliance, and quality improvement. His approach to healthcare administration has consistently emphasized systems-level thinking — understanding how staffing, policy, reimbursement, and patient outcomes connect rather than treating them as isolated concerns.

"I've always believed that good leadership in healthcare means understanding the whole picture, not just the part you're directly responsible for," Haenke said. "When something breaks down in a hospital or a clinic, it's almost never one thing. You have to be willing to look at the full system."

That philosophy carried into his academic work at San Diego State University, where he taught nursing leadership and healthcare financial management. His courses challenged students to engage with the structural and economic realities of healthcare delivery — topics that many clinicians encounter only after entering the workforce.

"Students come in focused on clinical skills, which they should be," Haenke said. "But at some point, every nurse is going to face a situation where the system itself is the problem. I wanted them to be ready for that."

Alongside his healthcare and academic career, Haenke has maintained an active role in ordained ministry in the San Diego area, providing pastoral care, preaching, and organizational leadership to congregations navigating periods of transition. He has described the overlap between his ministry and his secular work as more natural than most people assume, noting that hospitals, universities, and parishes all require the same core competencies: clear communication, financial stewardship, and a willingness to stay present when circumstances are difficult.

Haenke resides in San Diego with his spouse, Cliff. He remains engaged in community life and continues to explore opportunities to contribute his experience in healthcare leadership, education, and ministry to organizations and initiatives in the San Diego region.

## About Roger Haenke

Roger Haenke is a San Diego-based leader with more than three decades of experience across healthcare administration, higher education, and ordained ministry. He has held senior positions at Sharp HealthCare, St. Paul's Senior Services, and Family Health Centers of San Diego, and served on the faculty of San Diego State University's School of Nursing. His areas of expertise include nursing operations, healthcare financial management, program development, organizational leadership, and pastoral care.

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