

MISSION PLANNING FOR CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

Why do mission planning during a time of pastoral transition?

During a pastoral transition, we are invited to reflect on where we have been and where God may lead us in the future. As we look toward our next chapter of ministry, we are invited to reflect on some basic questions about our identity and purpose as a congregation.

Some questions you may wish to consider include: Who are we as a congregation? What is God calling us to do together? In what ways can listen for God and discern God's will for our future? How do we find new ways to engage our community? How do we invite others into the life of our congregation?

As always, our synod's Director for Evangelical Mission is available to assist your congregation and leadership team you discern and plan together.

Some Resources for Congregational Planning

As always, our ministry and mission planning should be grounded in scripture and prayer. In addition, these are some resources which have been used by congregations in our synod in their mission planning and renewal:

Living Lutheran by Dave Daubert invites you to explore your congregation's purpose and core values to help you incorporate these into your mission and ministry. It is also an excellent resource for reminding us of the gifts and insights of our Lutheran tradition.

A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation by Rick Rouse and Craig Van Gelder invites congregations to rediscover the abundant life God intends for all of us. It also offers practical advice on leading a congregation through a process of change, transformation and renewal.

Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann invites us to incorporate prayerful listening and conversation into our mission planning. It is a book of great depth which is best used by a team working together to discern God's will for their congregation.

The Grasshopper Myth by Karl Vaters is a wonderful resource for small congregations to discover that God is at work among us and calling us to move beyond discouragement and into hope. This book also reminds us that most congregations are small, and that God can do remarkable things in any size congregation.

Pathway to Renewal by Dave Smith and Mary Sellon is an excellent resource for congregations who are exploring ways to be renewed both spiritually and in growing in their mission toward their community.

Becoming a Hybrid Church by Dave Daubert and Richard Jorgensen is a primer for congregations who want to provide faithful online and on-the-ground ministry. Additional support is available to congregations from our synod office as congregations seek to be more effective in providing hybrid ministry.

If you are looking for other ideas or resources please do call our synod office and we will be glad to work with you as we live into God's future together.