ADVANCING GOD'S MISSION:

2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

Goal 1

Strongly urge and assist every congregation in the synod to complete a purpose, mission, vision and values statement.

Objectives completed

1. Make Mission, Vision, Values workbooks available
2. Completed Schools for Mission.
3. Trained a team of local leaders to lead congregations through the Transformation Ministry process
4. Introduce Transformation Ministry Process to Dayton Conference

Ongoing work

1. Synod Staff work with individual congregations to develop mission, vision and values statements.

Future Objectives

1. Identify and encourage congregations to use Evangelism resources.
2. Identify resource people in congregations that have grown, ask them to tell their stories.
3. Introduce Transformation Ministry Process to Scioto and Muskingum Conferences

Goal 2

Promote greater organizational health and growth in congregations via workshops focusing on healthy leaders and congregations.

Objectives Completed

1. Develop Viable First Call Education Program
2. Expand First Call Education Program.
    a. Add a component for pastors in their 4-10th years of ministry
3. Held Healthy Leaders Event.
4. Train Staff in Healthy Leaders process
5. Multiple Staff Workshop

Future Objectives

1. Develop program for Pastor as Stewardship Leader
2. Add to Pastor's Parochial Report questions concerning a rostered person's spiritual and physical health.
3. Encourage congregations to provide health club membership for rostered leaders

Goal 3

Develop a training process to equip lay leaders for ministry within and outside the congregation.

Objectives Completed

1. Conduct workshops on ministry in the Small Congregation.
    a. Youth Ministry in the Small Congregation held in Spring 09
2. Began implementing Book of Faith initiative
3. Completed Spiritual Gifts Workshops
4. Began new round of Lay School of Theology.
5. Youth Leader Training Retreat

Future Objectives

1. Provide resources to congregations in developing congregational health ministries.
2. Hold Training Event for Volunteer Coordinators
3. Create Synodical Equipping Ministries Coordinator

Goal 4

Create a synod-wide process by which young people are invited to explore their call to ministry.

Objectives Completed

1. Conduct events for Jr. High and Elementary Youth
2. Called Youth Specialist for Synod Staff
3. Provide workshops to train and empower our Youth leaders
4. Developed a cooperative youth ministry in Brookville, Arcanum and Phillipsburg.
5. Continue Faith Trek

Ongoing Work

1. Consult with individual congregations on youth ministry.

Future Objectives

1. Develop Synod-Wide Youth Service Trip.
2. Expand LYO beyond annual event.
3. Develop High School Leadership Training with LOMO

Goal 5

Take an active role in creating a culture of excitement, support, and training to equip congregations and individuals in witness and evangelism.

Objectives Completed

1. Identify natural clustering of congregations by size, geographical settings, or special ministry interests
    a. Clusters begun in East Dayton, Route 40 Corridor, Northern Tier Dayton/Mad River Conferences (Northern Exposure), Stillwater Cluster, Springfield City. Fairborn area
    b. Develop Support Network for First Lutheran in Cincinnati
    c. Began developing downtown Dayton Strategy.
2. Transition from SEMOSIT to GRACE Partners to include small congregations throughout the Synod
3. $20,000 in special Outreach Grants awarded to 8 congregations.
4. Encourage learning opportunities for all ages in the synod and its Congregations
    a. Conducted workshops at Synod Assembly
5. Reinstituted Road Shows

Ongoing Work

1. Amazing Grace Day Camps

Future Objectives

1. Promote resources that encourage involvement in diversity and increase awareness of rich cultural variations within our communities.
2. Identify resources and training available to strengthen Learning Ministries.
3. Appoint Task Force to review Synod's Administrative Structure

Goal 6

Enhance, develop and promote specific ways the Body of Christ can love their neighbors and call for obedience to the Gospel.

Objectives Completed

1. Provide resources & opportunities for conversation on issues of human sexuality
2. Provide educational opportunities to increase awareness of hunger
   a. Developed comprehensive Hunger Strategy
3. Strengthened Companion Synod Program
   a. Developed separate Kazakhstan Task Force
   b. Attended Latin American Companion Synod Consultation
   c. Recruited Pastor Liz Senft to serve as Global Mission Coordinator to work with our companion synod task forces.
   d. Groups visited Tanzania, Brazil, Mecklenburg
   e. Received visitors from Tanzania, Mecklenburg, Kazakhstan
   f. Developed joint ministry projects with Tanzania and Kazakhstan
   g. Develop Rostered Leader event on Global Mission theme.
   h. Sent missionary couple to Tanzania
   i. Participated in Leipzig Consultation with partners from Mecklenburg, Tanzania and Kazakhstan
   j. Held Tanzania Festival
4. Partner with LSS on congregational relations and community needs assessments
5. Became pilot Synod for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative

Future Objectives

1. An organized response to family violence in every congregation in the Synod
2. Prepare a Global Formation Event.

Goal 7

Start 1 new mission or redevelopment per year using multi-staff or other appropriate models.

Objectives Completed

1. Start New Mission or Redevelop One Congregation each year.
   a. New Missions = Oromo; Alleluia; Church at North Pointe; African International Lutheran Mission; Vida Eterna Iglesia Luterana
   b. Redevelopments = First, Cincinnati; First Columbus; First, Portsmouth; St. Peter, Columbus
2. Work with larger congregations to start new missions
   a. Good Shepherd Cincinnati took responsibility for UC Campus Ministry

Future Objectives

1. Explore developing relationship with Tanzanian Lutherans in Columbus
2. Redevelop First Dayton.
3. Develop Campus Ministry at Central State/Wilberforce Universities
4. Start new mission in the Sunbury area.

Goal 8

Continue and expand the mentoring process of rostered leaders for the purpose of outreach.

Objectives Completed

1. Small Church Mentoring Program
2. Developed Southern Ohio Synod Leadership Institute
3. Senior Pastor Group
4. Refine and strengthen the call process
5. Began annual event for Small Congregations

Future Objectives

1. Develop continuing education program for pastors of Mid-Size Congregations.

Goal 9

Strengthen the worship life of the congregations of the synod through demonstration, education and collection of current resources for traditional and alternative practices.

Objectives Completed

1. Trained a team of people to be on call to visit with congregations at their request to provide feedback on what it is like to be a visitor in their congregations.
2. Two synodical worship services in addition to Synod Assembly
3. Liturgy Sampler event
4. Introduced ELW
5. Identify and share worship resources

Future Objectives

1. Plan and implement six conference worship experiences following the model of the Synod wide worship services

Goal 10

Establish a task force on the use of technology in congregations.

Objectives Completed

1. Develop Synod E-Bulletin
2. Developed new website to provide more resources.
3. Use electronic voting system at Synod Assembly
4. Bishop communicate to Synod thru DVD's
5. Upgrade phone system

Future Objectives

1. Develop teleconferencing capability across the Synod.

Goal 11

Develop a plan for, and determine the feasibility of creating a database of lay leaders.

Objectives Completed

1. Determined such a database is not feasible.

Goal 12

Develop a plan for identifying and soliciting philanthropic resources for specific areas of need to accomplish the goals of Advancing God's Mission

Objectives Completed for 2009

1. Developed Southern Ohio Synod Foundation
2. Restarted Mission Interpreters Program.

Ongoing Objectives

1. Evaluate and strengthen fall consultation process.