

Vision For the Southern Ohio Synod



We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are a part of the Southern Ohio Synod. The synod is to serve as a point of connection between the churchwide organization and congregations.

What does the synod do?

- oversees the life and mission of the Church in Southern Ohio Synod
- pastorally cares for congregations and rostered leaders in its area
- nurtures the mission of the church through supporting congregations
- strengthens interdependence between congregations, conferences, clusters,

coalitions and congregations of our synod; with our churchwide agencies, and with our ecumenical partners.

Your prayerful input is what will make this vision come alive for the Body of Christ in Southern Ohio. Each of you are important to this vision. We can do more together than we can alone and this is why you are here! So thank you for sharing your thoughts with the visioning team.

Synod Values Statement

We clarify.

We communicate the Gospel in a clear and compelling way to our culture. We will maintain the centrality of Word and Sacrament and our Scriptural/Confessional core, striving for relevance while engaging the world. We will concentrate on faith formation, evangelism, witness and justice as a grace-oriented, hope-filled expression of the Faith.

We cultivate.

We tend the mission fields within our synod. We will bear the power of an Incarnational Church (the Body of Christ) to the world while staying true to the mission of Christ (Mt 28:16-20) taking young people seriously and holding the value of being a multi-ethnic church. As we walk together, we will focus on establishing new churches and building competence in ministry within all congregations

We collaborate.

We collaborate as and with the Body of Christ in our synod and in our world. We will model understanding and promote progress by creating relationships of support and accountability between the conferences, clusters, coalitions and congregations of our synod; with our churchwide agencies, and with our ecumenical partners.

Tell us about yourself...

These demographic questions help the Synod Visioning Team to ensure that a wide array of people is represented.

I am a... *

- clergy person
- lay person
- associate in ministry

Name (optional)

Age: (Optional)

- 0-17
- 18-24
- 25-39
- 40-54
- 55-69
- 70-84
- 84 and older

Gender (optional)

- Male
- Female

Vision Questions

A few notes about the questions below: Please answer these questions while thinking of the entire synod - not necessarily on the congregational level. No questions require an answer, please respond as you are able. (Please type or write neatly.)

What are your dreams and visions for discipleship for the synod?

What are your dreams and visions for faith formation for the synod?

What are your dreams and visions for outreach for the synod?

What are your dreams and visions for relationships in and between the communities of our synod?

Do you see any constraints that might inhibit our mission together?

If so, how might we overcome them?

What do you hope this Visioning Process will create in our Synod?

If you woke up tomorrow and had the power to change it, what would our Synod look like? (Please be as specific as you are able.)

What are you willing to commit to in order to achieve these dreams and visions?

Please mail hard copies to *Southern Ohio Synod, Attn Visioning Team, 300 S. 2nd Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215* or by email to sbarton-nnonno@southernohiosynod.org.

Deadline for submitting surveys is December 31, 2014.