

OREGON SYNOD OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Strategy for May 2007-May 2009

“Dreaming Together Being Accountable Together”

Oregon Synod Mission Statement

We of the Oregon Synod, firmly rooted in the gospel of God's grace in Christ, embrace our partnership with the whole church and freely give ourselves to worship, witness and service.

ELCA Mission Statement:

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.

ELCA Strategic Directions:

Support congregations in their call to be faithful, welcoming, and generous, sharing the mind of Christ;

Assist members, congregations, synods, and institutions and agencies of this church to **grow in evangelical outreach**;

Step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God's love for all that God has created;

Deepen and extend our global, ecumenical, and interfaith relationships for the sake of God's mission; and

Assist this church to **bring forth and support faithful, wise, and courageous leaders** whose vocations serve God's mission in a pluralistic world.

Unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM) Purpose Statement:

To engage leaders in the formation of evangelizing congregations that make disciples for Jesus Christ and equip people to use their gifts for God's reign in the church and in the world.

Outreach Goals and Strategies

1. INITIATE ONE OR MORE NEW START MINISTRIES ANNUALLY.

A - Develop a checklist of demographic, economic, and social indicators which need to be present to evaluate the potential of a location for developing a new start.

B - Gather and review statistical data and other pertinent social and demographic information on the synod annually; prioritize areas for new development.

C - Meet with cluster deans annually to discuss new start potential in their cluster; expand the conversation to other pastors and lay leaders as needed.

D - Create a follow-up checklist for approved new starts: scheduling ministry reviews and arranging Mission Partners, mentoring, training and resources.

E - Meet with new start leaders annually to discuss process and progress.

F - Identify and meet with congregations and ministries with the potential for multiplying; establish working contacts; and, provide any necessary training and resources.

G - Advocate with Synod Council to increase monies available for new starts; establish criteria for how this would be used.

2. IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPONDING TO CHANGING CULTURAL CONTEXTS WITH NEW AND DEVELOPING MINISTRIES.

A - Develop a checklist of demographic, economic, social, and other indicators which need to be present to help evaluate the potential for developing an emerging ministry.

B - Identify leadership development strategies for emerging church leaders; work with Bishop's office and Candidacy Committee on identifying and supporting ethnic leaders interested in the candidacy process.

C - Work with Synod Council appointees on implementation of the Region 1 Latino Outreach Strategy in the Oregon Synod including

- 1 – publicizing and distributing the study guide for the strategy;
- 2 - laying the groundwork now for 4 new Latino ministries in Oregon by 2010;
- 3 - working with House of Zion to identify new kinds of leaders who can be in place by 2012;

D - Partner with all regional ethnic and emerging ministries strategies.

E - Perform specific responsibilities for Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities (as outlined in the document governing SAWCs).

F. Ensure each developing ministry is sensitive to its changing cultural context.

3. WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH SYNODICAL AND ELCA LEADERS TO STRENGTHEN CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES FOR MISSION OUTREACH.

A - Work with EOCM leaders and the Synod Mission Director on criteria to identify congregations and worshiping communities with potential for engaging the EOCM transformation process.

- 1 - Make a contact to educate those communities about transformation.
- 2 - Assist congregations who choose to apply for a Transformation grant through the application process for EOCM funding, and support them throughout the life of the grant.

B - Meet annually with the interim pastors in the synod.

- 1 - Help them keep up to date with information on congregations in transition and the potential for transformation.
- 2 - Help them develop congregational leadership with the mindset for mission development.

C - Be a catalyst with other Synodical leaders to coordinate and bring coaching training into the synod.

D - Assist in the Natural Church Development process in the Synod.

4. WORK WITH CONGREGATIONS AND MISSIONS UNDER DEVELOPMENT ON THE EOCM GRANT PROCESS.

- A - Work with EOCM to understand the current nature, priorities, and availability of grants
- B - Establish timelines for grant processes and advertise to congregations.
- C - Review and assess grant applications and assign an OSOMT liaison.
- D - Work with grant applicants to revise application to meet EOCM guidelines.
- E - Provide Ministry Reviews for ongoing grant recipients (every 3rd year) and ministries under development (every 18 months).

5. DEVELOP NETWORK OF MISSION PARTNERS FOR SUPPORT OF OUTREACH MINISTRIES.

- A - Identify key individuals or congregations in strategic areas around the Synod who are able to assist as Mission Partners.
- B - Focus on clusters where outreach ministries are being developed.
- C - Identify and advertise Synod-wide the specific needs of new start and emerging ministries; pay special attention to provide opportunities for small as well as large congregations and ministries to participate.
- D - Assist each new start and emerging ministry in developing a sustainable funding strategy.

6. ENCOURAGE ALL CONGREGATIONS/MINISTRIES TO DEEPEN THEIR SERVANT ORIENTATION.

- A. Work with the Synod Council and the Commission for Congregational Ministries to implement an action plan for congregations/ministries throughout the whole Synod to deepen the missional and servant orientation of the Synod, remembering that our best lessons come when we walk together in faith and love. Help the Synod in its planning for missional and servant orientation by learning from and walking with people living in poverty.
- B. Remember that God is at work when things are “falling apart” and when all is going well. Gather and share “best practices” and creative ideas for participation in what God is doing in the world and in Synod ministries today. Work toward a learning/teaching process for clusters, congregations, and ministries.

