

Synod Stewardship Strategic Plan For the Oregon Synod – ELCA

February 23, 2006

“Living in and responding to God’s amazing grace.”

Executive Summary

VISION STATEMENT

The primary purpose of stewardship is to serve the will of God. Stewardship is how we live our lives after we are baptized and includes how we spend our resources, our time, and our talents to do God’s will. In all of our congregations’ programs, structures, and behaviors, we will strengthen the daily-life stewardship of all our members so that God’s creating, redeeming, and sanctifying activity will flourish in the world.

LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS AND PRACTICES

The Oregon Synod is committed to equipping congregations and leaders to meet their challenges and fulfilling the mission our Lord established for his church. In accomplishing this, the bishop and all synod personnel, including synod staff, Synod Council, all synod leaders and all rostered personnel, will model good daily life stewardship, teach others, and see stewardship as an integrated part of synod ministry.

The Oregon Synod, through the Synod Council and its committees, will train, provide resources and encourage rostered personnel and congregational leaders of their roles in funding the ministries of their congregations, the synod and the wider church throughout the world.

The Oregon Synod, through the Synod Council and its committees, will challenge all leaders in congregations to be models of faithful generosity and place a strong emphasis on mission support and personal growth within the church.

The Synod Council will review and bi-annually approve the Synod Stewardship Strategic Plan including providing the support, resources, and participation for implementation of the plan; annually develop and approve an integrated Synod Financial Plan, detailing BOTH income and expenses; annually visit each congregation in the Synod, lifting up the ministries of the congregations and the partnership of each congregation and the Synod; and recognize and appreciate synod personnel, including synod staff, synod council, synod leaders and rostered personnel who demonstrate good examples of steward leadership.

Congregations shall be encouraged to tithe mission support per the 1991 Oregon Synod Congregational Resolution (Appendix B).

STRATEGY GOALS

Through programs, structures and behaviors, congregations of the synod will strengthen the daily life stewardship of all their members so that God’s creating, redeeming and sanctifying activity will flourish in the world. These actions shall be measured by the following goals:

- That all congregations are actively involved in mission in their communities.
- That a minimum of seventy percent (70%) of all synod congregations are represented and actively involved in synodical ministries and activities.
- That a minimum of two percent (2%) of each congregation’s lay membership is actively involved in synodical ministries and activities.

- In accordance with Vision and Expectations III, one hundred percent (100%) of clergy are actively involved in synodical ministries and activities.

God's creating, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world is supported by ministries of the ELCA. Synod support shall be measured by the following goals:

- Raising the percentage of mission support of the Oregon Synod to the ministries of the ELCA to the average percentage of mission support of the 65 Synods of the ELCA by 2008 fiscal year. (Current Oregon Synod support is 42.9%; the average of all synods in 2003 was 50.7%. The increase would be approximately 2.6% per year, or an increase of approximately \$29,337.00 per year above year 2003 mission support.)
- Raising the percentage of mission support of the Oregon Synod to the ministries of the ELCA to five percent (5%) above the average percentage of mission support of the 65 synods of the ELCA by 2012 fiscal year. (The increase would be 1.25% per year, or approximately \$14,106.00 per year.)
- Raising the percentage of mission support of the Oregon Synod to the ministries of the ELCA beyond the 2012 fiscal year by one half percent (1/2%) per year. (The increase would be 0.50% per year, or approximately \$5,642.00 per year.)

STAFF PERSONNEL AND PRACTICES

The Synod Stewardship Committee will develop and implement an effective, fully integrated stewardship strategy and plan that fits well with the strategic plans of the synod and ELCA, develop a functional team to implement the stewardship strategy and plan, nurture partnerships built on active coaching relationships with leaders, utilize ELCA, Region One and other resources where appropriate, and improve personal effectiveness through continuing education.

SYNOD STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

The Synod Stewardship Committee will provide stewardship training and education for Synod staff, Synod Council, Synod leaders, rostered personnel, congregational lay leaders and congregational members through programs that focus on:

- Mission Support
- Rostered Personnel Education
- Stewardship Education and Leadership Development
- Mission Interpretation
- Planned Giving
- Communications
- Related Strategies

Readers of this Executive Summary are encouraged to refer to the complete Synod Stewardship Strategic Plan to see specific programs and resources available through the Synod Offices. This document is available online at the Oregon Synod website at <http://www.oregonsynod.org/about/stewardship.php>.

Appendix B – 1991 Tithing Resolution

SA.91.6.23.14 VOTED to adopt Resolution #9 – Tithing Resolution. (Beverly Allert, mover.)

Mr. Frank Yraguen spoke to motion and encouraged the resolution to be considered as an action item and that the assembly delegates take the financial concerns of the Oregon Synod back to our congregations. He concluded that every ministry of the Mission Life Commission is being cut back financially.

R E S O L U T I O N # 9

TITLE: Tithing Resolution

ORIGIN: Oregon Synod Council

WHEREAS the Scriptures advocate the practice of Christian giving that grows out of our thanksgiving for everything that God has done for us and because of a relationship has been established with God through our Baptism; and

WHEREAS the historic and scriptural benchmark for giving has been the tithe; and

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through its Mission 90 emphasis encourages the giving of a tithe or more of our income to Christ's mission; and

WHEREAS the practice of tithing is a commendable expression of Christian discipleship, as well as a means of extending Christ's mission; and

WHEREAS the congregation needs to model this example that it is asking of its members; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Oregon Synod encourages all congregations to participate in Mission 90 "TITHERS BY THE MILLION" emphasis, using materials provided by the ELCA that will be sent to all congregations by the bishop; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the congregations of the Oregon Synod invite their members to commit themselves to tithing as a way of life by moving toward and beyond the giving of 10% of their income for Christ's mission in the Church and the world; and

BE IT RESOLVED that each congregation of the Oregon Synod be encouraged to give a minimum of 10% of its income to the work of the Synod and the ELCA through undesignated benevolence and that each congregation be encouraged to grow in giving by 1% of its income until attaining at least 20% of its income being given to undesignated benevolence.