

**NEMN SYNOD  
STRATEGIC**


**PLANNING TEAM  
REPORT**

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022**

# YOUR SYNOD'S STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM



# WHY THIS? WHY NOW?

- **Where will our church will be in five years?**
  - **How can our congregations respond to the challenges of ministry in this time and place?**
  - **Where is God calling the Northeastern Minnesota Synod?**
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# WHO DID WE LISTEN TO?

**Synod Council**

**Outdoor**

**Ministry/Camps**

**Five conferences of our  
synod**

**Together Here**

**Food Insecurity**

**Ministries**

**First call rostered  
leaders**

**Congregational council  
members**

**Eco Faith Network**

**Rostered leader**

**candidates**

**Music Ministry Leaders**

**Bible Study Groups**

**Campus Ministry**

**participants**

**Youth Ministry leaders**

**LYO members**

**LGBTQ/Reconciled in**

**Christ Congregations**

**Lay Leader Network**

**Elderly members**

**Anti-Racism team**

**...And anyone else who  
wanted to be included!**

# FOUR LISTENING QUESTIONS:

- 1. How is your congregation or organization growing disciples with a deepening faith in Jesus Christ?**
- 2. How are new people invited to share in the ministry and leadership of your congregation or organization?**
- 3. What are your hopes for your congregation beyond the pandemic?**
- 4. What do you value most about being a network of congregations and organizations**

# THEME VERSE

**LISTEN TO ADVICE AND ACCEPT INSTRUCTION, THAT YOU MAY GAIN WISDOM FOR THE FUTURE. THE HUMAN MIND MAY DEVISE MANY PLANS, BUT IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD THAT WILL BE ESTABLISHED.**

**-PROVERBS 19:20-21**



# OUR PURPOSE

**The Northeastern Minnesota Synod is empowering congregations and ministries to encounter and share the love of God in Christ Jesus.**



WE EXIST TO ENCOUNTER AND  
SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS.

## 4 CORE VALUES:

Encountering the love of God,  
feeling **WELCOMED**, getting  
**CONNECTED**, working to  
**REFORM**, receiving and giving  
**SUPPORT**. Then do it again!



# OUR CORE VALUES



## WELCOME

How can we learn the art of gathering so people feel they belong? How could our buildings be used now? How can we welcome new people and new ways of being church?

# OUR CORE VALUES



How can we build networks and systems that reach across the church and out to the community? How can we be authentic neighbors as we move from isolation into deeper connection?

# OUR CORE VALUES



How can we rekindle the faith? In this changing world, how can we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God? How can we embrace our baptismal call to love all people and the world God made?

# OUR CORE VALUES



## **SUPPORT**

How can we respond to everyday needs? How can we learn together, train leaders, and care for each other as we experiment with new vision?

# OUR GOALS: WELCOME

1. Make a plan to invite people into the Body of Christ and into relationship with God and one another. Support every congregation in understanding their physical or digital neighborhood as we work together to be the church. Encourage congregations to work together to better understand what it means to make all people feel welcome. Equip pastors, deacons, leaders and congregational teams to be places of hospitality, welcome, and engagement as people are introduced to the faith and participate in ministry we cannot imagine yet today.

# OUR GOALS: WELCOME

2. Think outside the building. Imagine new ways of being church, showing up in unusual places and ways, new uses of technology, welcoming diversity, getting a bigger vision of what God is doing in our part of the world.

# OUR GOALS: WELCOME

3. Visibly welcome the full diversity of God's people. Equip congregations with resources and training to welcome people of various age, ethnicity, gender, sexual identities and socio economic diversity.

# OUR GOALS: CONNECT

4. Develop and encourage new networks to make it easy to teach each other. We can share resources, social media, copyright issues management, training treasurers, growing a hybrid church, Bible studies, faith stories, and so much more. Create a gift sharing network across organizations and congregations so we are equipped to welcome new people. This includes a musicians network, rural congregation network, anti-racism and LGBTQ+ training. The possibilities are endless as we do this work together.



# OUR GOALS: CONNECT

5. Network, share, and learn from people outside of our denomination. Expand ecumenical partnerships and community based ministries that are mutually valuable. This is an opportunity to discover why some congregations are growing and to learn from them.

# OUR GOALS: REFORM

6. Build new habits. Every congregation and synod meeting can begin deeply rooted in scripture and end with heart-felt prayer. We can launch this as an initiative with a 10-minute goal, supported with curriculum and/or videos that engage people in scripture.

# OUR GOALS: REFORM

7. Explore new ways of being church. Create innovation hubs that experiment with new ideas, encourage risk-taking, learn from mistakes and share what is learned.

# OUR GOALS: REFORM

8. Advocate for social justice. Educate, empower, and engage leadership in anti-racism work, creation care, LGBTQ+, mental health and reconciliation work to strengthen our congregational ministries in these areas.

# OUR GOALS: SUPPORT



9. Expand the Mental Health Resources. Support education and provide curriculum, articles, and resources to foster a climate of healthy behavior and remove the stigma of mental illness.

# OUR GOALS: SUPPORT



10. Curate, create, or contract for Christian leadership formation. Encourage congregations to create systems for growing leaders of all ages with a deepening faith. Add staff to support congregational leadership formation.

# OUR GOALS: SUPPORT

11. Design a synod-wide initiative for preaching and teaching these values as we journey together from isolation to connection. Create an implementation plan that includes:

- Calling every congregation to participate.
- Creating resources for preaching and teaching values.
- Sharing in small group Bible Studies. (All ages.)
- Creating space for congregational members engaged in conversation about these values.

# HOW CAN WE ACCOMPLISH THIS?

**Choose a goal that you are most excited about.**

**Chat amongst your congregational group or those around you about this goal. Take time to wonder about how this goal could be accomplished.**

**Write down your thoughts on the post-it note provided, and we will post them after this session in celebration of what God can do in**



# HOW WILL WE MAKE THIS VISION A REALITY?

- **build on our strengths**
- **create new ways of supporting families**
- **ask hard questions**
- **commitment, new teams, and staff time.**
- **reclaim a vision bigger than going back to the past**
- **working together in new ways**
- **support teams of leaders**
- **add staff if needed**
- **discern how to best steward our gifts**
- **not imagining a fast turnaround**
- **leaders across the synod engaging together**
- **build new habits and have new conversations**
- **learn how God is calling us to be church now**

**For the strategic planning team's  
full report, visit the synod  
website:**

**[www.nemnsynod.org](http://www.nemnsynod.org)**

# PRAYER

**Almighty God, your mission is to redeem the world. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit with passion and courage so we can join you in that work. Open our eyes to see you moving in our community. Open our ears to hear your call. Open our hearts to love our neighbors. Open our minds to imagine new ways of sharing the good news about Jesus in the world. AMEN**