

Greater Milwaukee Synod Evangelism/Outreach Team Report

April 5, 2013

In 2012, the Synod Evangelism/Outreach Team met approximately every six weeks to engage in scripture, prayer, and “what God is doing around our synod in this place and time.” They reviewed and discussed places in our synod where missional conversations are taking place that involve a focus on outreach into neighborhoods, partnered or collaborative ministry with two or more congregations, social service and non-profit agencies, and strategies that build relationships and raise accountability of both rostered and lay leaders. Bishop Jeff Barrow is also in the process of developing a task force in the Waukesha Cluster to explore new mission opportunities; a possible new satellite “plant” from ministries of strength; and partnerships with the Hope Center.

An In-House Evangelist Task Force was formed as directed by Resolution 2 at the 2011 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly, and includes Pastor Paul Bulgerin, Chair; Pastor Sherman Martell; and Pastor Sandy Chrostowski. A video and PowerPoint presentation was offered at the 2012 Synod Assembly. The Task Force plans evangelism training within congregations to help leaders “put on a new lens to share faith.” The Task Force trained ten lay and rostered leaders to conduct In-House Evangelist training in congregations. Church of the Resurrection, Pewaukee, agreed to be the first congregation to participate in the pilot training. A congregational pre-assessment and evangelism training over a period of four Sundays was completed, including sermons, video and PowerPoint presentations, and small group discussions. A post-assessment will follow. Other synod congregations have expressed interest in participating next.

Ms. Rhonda Hill, Director of Discipleship; Pastor Chuck Brummond, Director of Rostered Leaders; and Pastor Sandy Chrostowski of the synod staff continue developing a synod coaching system for first-call pastors, mission developers and redevelopers, in partnership with CoachNet.org and coaching training provided by the ELCA. Synod mission developers and redevelopers and a number of lay leaders have also completed ELCA Missional Leader Training. In addition, a team of rostered and lay leaders attended Transformational Ministry Training 2.0 to prepare to serve as our synod’s Renewal Team. An introduction of this training was offered at the Congregational Leader Event.

LIFT (Living Into the Future) resources were expanded on the Greater Milwaukee Synod website for congregational mission planning, renewal strategies.

The Synod Evangelism/Outreach Team also reviewed applications, allocations, and progress reports for congregations receiving ELCA Partnership Support Grants, in accordance with the grant process cycle.

Leaders who participated in our Synod Evangelism/Outreach Team included: Pastor Paul Bulgerin, Grace, Grafton; Pastor Gary Grindeland, Christ the King, Delafield; Ms. Rhonda Hill, Director of Discipleship; Pastor Jim Holmberg, Lutheran Social Services; Pastor Carl Lund, Retired; Pastor Sherman Martell, Luther Memorial; Pastor Kristin Nielsen, Good Shepherd/Trinity; Pastor Kevan Penvose, Unity; Pastor Gail Rautman, Village; Pastor Earnest Tate, Peace; Pastor Howard Vrankin, Retired; Pastor Dick Warber, Retired; and Pastor Sandy Chrostowski, Director for Evangelical Mission.

Respectfully submitted,

The Greater Milwaukee Synod Evangelism/Outreach Team