

Strategic Plan: 2005 in Review

Synod Strategic Plan Highlights from 2005

Vision: Called into God's Marvelous Light: To Be Joyful Witnesses, To Be Christ-Centered Disciples, and To Be Strong Leaders

Objective: A synod joined in prayer.

2005 focused on prayer focusing on four congregations each week to be prayed for throughout the synod. It was encouraging to see the interesting and unique ways that these prayers were incorporated by congregations. This focus is being continued beyond 2005.

Objective: Natural Church Development begins
Natural Church Development (NCD) began with seven congregations in 2005. The process began with a survey to identify one of eight qualities of congregational health to focus on for the year. NCD includes a Health Team to plan ways to improve the chosen quality and a coach to assist the congregation.

In 2006 the congregations will reassess themselves and choose another quality to focus on. We will also expand the program to more congregations. Contact Larry Iverson at the synod office (507-280-9457, 800-426-6376 (MN only), or iverson@semnsynod.org) if your congregation would like to participate.

Objective: Organization of congregational worship leaders group.

This group has been meeting regularly. They serve as a support group, share ideas, and discuss opportunities to support the synod. They are also involved with introducing *Renewing Worship*. Contact Ann Beatty at 507-286-1409 or abeatty53@aol.com for more information or go to www.semnsynod.org for upcoming meeting details.

Objective: Assessment of mission sites in synod.

The Mission Planning in Action team is developing a mission focus to identify future sites and opportunities for redevelopment and seek out ethnic ministry opportunities.

Objective: First bi-annual youth leadership event.

This objective has been aided by the recent grant

from Thrivent and the partnership with Good Earth Village. The grant and partnership will focus on youth leadership.

Objective: Annual rural life harvest festival.

This event never materialized. The research process showed that there was not great interest or need for it.

Objective: Synod resource fair focused on Christian education.

This event transformed into a kickoff for the 2006 Synod Joined in Bible Study. In October the Bible Study Kickoff was an opportunity to discuss possible Bible study resources.



2006: A Synod Joined in Bible Study

A Year for Study

By Marilyn Crossfield
Congregational Renewal Team

For some the word study brings to mind long nights of pouring over books with things that we are sure we will never need in the "real world."

Study to me brings to mind a journey. All of us are on our own journey that has been laid out by our Savior.



Along this journey we discover, uncover and reveal many new wonders that we never knew existed. All revealed to us by our Father. "Discover," "uncover," and "reveal" are wonderful words for what study really is. I pray that in this season of Lent and Easter we are all able to discover, uncover and reveal new wonders that our Lord Jesus has to show us.

How do we do that? There are many tools available to us during this season. We can journey together at Lent services. Some churches have Lent/Easter family devotional packets available. Opening up the Bible and reading from the Gospels about Jesus' life, death and resurrection with our family and friends. God's blessing on us all as we find ways to discover the wonder and blessing of Jesus' grace and mercy.



Called into God's Marvelous Light

To Be Joyful Witnesses

To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

To Be Strong Leaders