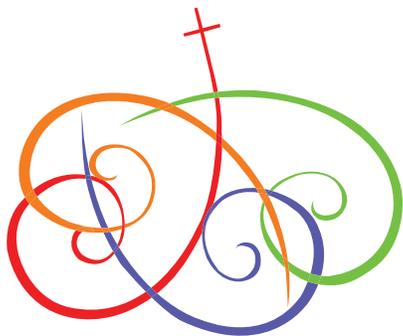


Journey Toward Vitality



Mission

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Vision

For every congregation to become a vital expression of the scriptural imperatives to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.

Vision Pathways

To increase the capacity of the Dakotas Conference, districts, and local churches by: developing missional leaders, equipping missional congregations, extending missional impact and generating missional resources.

Developing Missional Leaders

Outcomes: Effective leadership cultivated, recruited and/or developed for the future. Increased number of young clergy. Empowered clergy with a clear understanding of their leadership and disciple-making abilities who are implementing individual plans for growth. A Culture of Call infused in United Methodists across the Dakotas as they articulate how they have seen God at work in their lives and are responding to God's calling. Laity trained, equipped and empowered to serve in vital ministry positions throughout the conference.

Strategies: Elisha/Samuel Internship programs, youth ministry cohort, Compass group cohorts, clergy effectiveness processes, continued education that champions clergy self-care of body mind and spirit, discernment retreats, camping programming with focused outcomes and evaluations, preaching retreat, training workshops.

Equipping Missional Congregations

Outcomes: Ten to twenty congregations assessed annually and taking the next steps toward vitality. New spaces for new people to worship. Effective leadership for new ministries and/or new life cycles of ministry.

Strategies: Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI) cohort and Journey Renewal Partnership process. New church starts in Sioux Falls, Salem, Fargo, Kenmare and the Rapid City area. Multiplication cohorts. Ministry grants for new ministries. Compass groups, planter assessments and ongoing breakthrough workshops. Youth ministry cohort.

Extending Missional Impact

Outcomes: Churches equipped to understand and positively impact their local "mission field". Churches partnering with schools in their community to reach children and youth. Churches engaging in active partnership with at least one conference-supported mission: Tree of Life, Spirit Lake Ministry Center, Solar Oven Partners, Bakken area. Individuals and congregations who are healing a broken world through global missions and ministries.

Strategies: Mission InSite and outreach planning workshops, Breakthrough ministry grants and school partnership grants in partnership with Dakotas Foundation, marketing for conference missions.

Generating Missional Resources

Outcomes: Congregations who understand, trust, and partner with Conference vision. Churches with an abundance mindset and effective discipleship through Christian stewardship. A greater financial capacity to support initiatives to make new disciples through leadership and congregational development. An increased number of donors and gift cultivation, as well as local church connections with the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation.

Strategies: Treasurer training, stewardship training, Builder's Club, Thrive, Lilly grant