

2008 Vision and Goals for the BC Synod

Background:

In 2004, the BC Synod engaged in an extensive visioning process. Ten vision statements were formulated and eighteen goals were established based upon those vision statements and were adopted by the 2004 Synod convention.

2007 to 2008 Review:

In the fall of 2007, representatives from the Synod standing committees joined Synod Council and the Conference Deans for a "visioning day." The assembled group reviewed the progress that had been made with respect to the 2004 vision and goals, and then highlighted those goals that still needed attention.

Arising out of this process were the following:

1. Reaffirmation of the 2004 visioning document as an important tool and guide for our ministry as a Synod
2. Four of the vision statements were selected as the primary ones that should be the focus of our Synod for the next two years. These are as follows:
 - To be a church in mission
 - To be an inclusive church where all are welcome
 - To excel in shepherding our congregations and rostered ministers
 - To enhance our effectiveness through creative models of ministry
3. Participants in the visioning day began developing strategic goals in response to what these four vision statements might mean for us as a Synod. In addition, all of the vision statements will be referred to the Standing Committees as strategic directions to assist them in their own planning. Subsequent to the visioning day, a sub-committee was formed to complete the task begun that day.

The strategic goals arising out of the visioning day are as follows:

1. **To be a church in mission**
 - a. Establish new congregations, specialized ministries, and mission projects
 - b. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations
 - c. Encourage and support growing congregations
 - d. Assist congregations that are struggling due to diminishing membership
 - e. Provide assistance for rostered ministers to attend the mission developer training events
 - f. Promote resources and workshops that enable congregations to identify and enact their mission, vision and goals
2. **To be an inclusive church where all are welcome**
 - a. To discern and understand the needs of the people in our communities so that we might more faithfully engage the work of the gospel
 - b. Seek ways within our respective communities to minister to those living with situations such as addiction, unemployment or underemployment, homelessness, language barriers or mental illness
 - c. The 2006 Synod Convention mandated that a welcoming motion be brought for consideration at the 2008 Convention. If that motion is adopted, the following goal would then be applicable: "To help the members of the BC Synod implement the welcoming motion in their personal lives and in the lives of their congregations and Synod"

3. **To excel in shepherding our congregations and rostered ministers**
 - a. Equip, enable and educate rostered ministers and lay leaders to engage the ministry of the gospel in a post-modern, emerging church world
 - b. Provide Synod-wide learning opportunities for lay people to address questions about what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century

4. **To enhance our effectiveness through creative models of ministry**
 - a. Provide theological and worship leadership training for lay people
 - b. Initiate area strategies in rural and urban situations
 - c. Develop a multi-point parish model and shared ministry options
 - d. Develop and promote an evaluative tool to assist congregations in assessing their health
 - e. Provide resources for congregations to engage in a revitalization process

The strategic goals outlined above were included in the report presented by Bishop Preibisch to the 2008 Synod Convention (cf. pages A5-6, Bulletin of Reports).