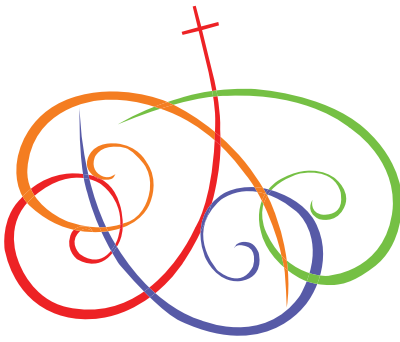


Journey Toward Vitality



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: Ensure effective leaders are available for the future. Increase the number of young clergy. Empower clergy with a clear understanding of their leadership and disciple-making abilities by implementing individual plans for growth. Equip United Methodists across the Dakotas who can articulate how they have seen God at work in their lives and feel God's calling. Train, equip and empower laity serving in vital ministry positions throughout the conference.

Strategies: Elisha Internship program, youth ministry cohort, clergy peer learning groups, clergy effectiveness processes, discernment retreats, camping programming with focused outcomes and evaluations, preaching retreat, training workshops.

Equipping Missional Congregations

Outcomes: Annually assess vitality of ten to twenty congregations and take the next steps toward vitality. Create new spaces for new people to worship. Provide leadership for new ministries and/or new life cycles of ministry.

Strategies: Six churches in current Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI) cohort and nine churches in Journey Renewal process. New church starts in Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Fargo, Kenmare and the Rapid City area. Coaching for starting a second worship service. Ministry grants for new ministries. Pastor cohort training, peer learning groups, planter assessments and ongoing breakthrough workshops. Youth ministry cohort of ten churches.

Extending Missional Impact

Outcomes: Equip churches to understand and positively impact their local "mission field". Inspire churches to engage in active partnership with at least one conference-supported mission: Tree of Life, Spirit Lake Ministry Center, Solar Oven Partners, Bakken area. Empower individuals and congregations with new opportunities to heal a broken world through global missions.

Strategies: Mission InSite and outreach planning workshops, Dakotas UM Foundation Breakthrough ministry grants, marketing and board development for conference missions.

Generating Missional Resources

Outcomes: Help congregations grow in their understanding and trust of the conference vision. Equip churches to grow in Christian stewardship. Enlarge the financial capacity to support initiatives to make new disciples through leadership and congregational development. Increase 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.



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