

DIocese OF MINNESOTA MISSION STRATEGY NETWORK (MSN)

THE NEXT 150 YEARS

Identity

We, the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, are a communion of Christian congregations and other ministries, rooted in the breadth of the Anglican tradition, called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share in Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

Purpose

Our purpose as the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota is to seed and cultivate vibrant congregations of maturing Christian disciples, equipping and emboldening them to be Christ's heart, hands and voice in the world.

Guiding Principles

Spiritual transformation and theological renewal
Moving to a more collaborative style of organization and leadership
Moving to a decentralized network
Moving to resourcing and empowering the grass roots
Moving into an expanded imagination for diverse expressions of the church
Moving into a posture of innovation, creativity, mutual trust and risk taking

Goals

Goal 1: Spiritual Transformation and Fuller Participation in God's Mission
Goal 2: Renew Congregations in Context
Goal 3: Recreate the Diocese as a Network
Goal 4: Develop Effective Stewardship of Financial Resources

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, 3/29/08 MEETING, ST. JOHN'S LINDEN HILLS

Attendees:

David Allen, Paul Allick, Mariann Budde, Kevin Bullock, Rob Cavanna, Len Freeman, Jim Huber, Mariellen Jacobson, Steve Judd, Rex McKee, Michele Morgan, Daniel Pearson, John E. Robertson, Bronwyn Skov, Ken Toven, Craig Van Gelder, Bill Van Oss, Frank Vardeman

Reflecting on Feedback Over the Last Few Months:

We identified the numerous conversations already taking place in churches and in various networks in relation the BCMS report. We also identified the questions we're hearing, concerns we and others have, and what's distracting us from doing the MSN work. We will be working to align, nurture and cultivate the energy that's stirring.

Regrounding Ourselves in the BCMS Report:

We understand our charge to be to (quoting BCMS Report page 22): "engage grass roots members across the diocese in reflective conversations and study that build trust and bring about the hoped-for change," and "coordinate the work of a series of action teams responsible for carrying out the specific initiatives contained in this report." Bishop Jelinek and Council drafted a charge for the Mission Strategy Network (as reported in January Council minutes); we are working to incorporate the items

listed as we develop our detailed tasks and timelines, and will ultimately ground ourselves in the findings and recommendations of the BCMS Report.

We observed that it's not obvious how to start working in the new paradigm - it's easy to remain conformed to the old ways ("old wineskins") of needing to understand structure and authority before we take action - we need to be transformed ourselves.

We spent time reflecting on *Identity* (BCMS Report page 3) and *Purpose* (BCMS Report page 4) and found this to be a very worthwhile re-grounding. We recommend that any groups undertaking MSN tasks spend some time discussing these pages before starting their tasks.

Organization Going Forward:

At our January meeting we first considered using a geographical model to organize the MSN task forces, but we now believe it will be more effective to work with existing networks and cultivate new networks to accomplish the tasks. Members of this Mission Strategy Team will serve as the primary catalysts and organizers of the work to be done by these existing and new networks, encouraging each of these groups into a deeper understanding of the BCMS Report and its implications, as well as thinking through how we tend to relationships inside of these networks and between these networks ("connecting the loops").

Examples of existing networks are Council, Region Meetings, Deacons, Total Ministry Mentors, Clergy Conferences, Department of Indian Work, Clericus, Commission on Ministry, Lay Leaders' Network.

For April and May we have identified members of our team to engage in conversation with some of the networks having meetings, and to bring MSN information to them.

Mariellen Jacobson will join the Steering Committee (Daniel Pearson, Jim Huber, Mariann Budde, Bronwyn Skov, Robert Two Bulls, Craig Van Gelder) as a project assistant to help organize the tools, resources and communications needed to accomplish the MSN tasks.

Daniel Pearson and Jim Huber are developing a budget for our work for 2008. We exhorted each other to do the work economically (provide our own lunches, leverage technology, etc.).

Communications:

The Steering Committee will work with the Diocesan office to determine if we can establish an information page on their website. MSN news, calendars, resources, etc. would be available there.

Schedule:

A meeting of this Mission Strategy Network to begin the work described on the bottom of page 22 of the BCMS report ("structure a specific set of time-lined action steps for the full implementation of all the goals...") will be convened within 60 days. The more-precise definition of the work to be done will delineate the teams and structures needed to accomplish it.