IS YOUR CONGREGATION READY?

Use the questions as you assess your congregation’s readiness to enter into the River.

My congregation:

- ___ has high trust in our leadership.
- ___ has a pastor (or pastors) who are ready to do something new.
- ___ is ready to join in God’s mission by connecting with our neighbors.
- ___ realizes that what we are doing is not working.
- ___ is wondering what to do next.
- ___ manages disagreements in a healthy, respectful manner.
- ___ is ready to learn how to make changes.
- ___ generally agrees on important issues.
- ___ wants to grow and welcome people from other cultures and ethnicities.
- ___ is committed to faith practices that deepen the faith of worshipers.

Scoring—add up the number of checked boxes:

- 5-8 or more: you are ready now.
- 4 or less: this is not the time.
- Email LEAD@waytolead.org for help.

COSTS

Costs include three overnight learning seminars and monthly professional coaching in a cohort with another congregation for one year.

Special pricing is available for cooperatives working together.

PLUS

$25 per person for each learning seminar (includes dinner, lunches, all materials)

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<tr>
<th>Base cost per congregation</th>
<th>$2,200 if coached separately, $1,200 if coached with another congregation.</th>
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<tr>
<td>$400 payable with signed covenant</td>
<td>Balance can be spread out in payments</td>
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NEXT STEPS

Let Pastor Sue Briner (sbriner@swtsynod.org) know you are ready for detailed information that will include:

- An Intro Kit for your congregation.
- A Congregational Covenant outlining time and resource commitments with initial deposit due to Pastor Sue by January 5, 2018.
- Building your congregational LEAD Team.

Mark your calendar now for the first Learning Seminar: March 2-3, 2018

God's Missional River is flowing all around us; in our communities, neighborhoods and throughout the world. How do we tap into it?

Leading in the Missional River:

Resourcing congregational leadership with new behaviors and tools to tune in and connect with God’s mission for their neighborhoods and lead courageously in a changing world and a changing church.

This is an invitation to congregations who may or may not have experienced the Missional River 1.0.

Southwestern Texas Synod

www.swtsynod.org/missionalriver

830-379-9900

In partnership with

LEAD

www.waytolead.org/southwestern-texas-synod

(PW: swt)
The Missional River 2.0

BACKGROUND

In 2014-2015, eleven congregations in the Southwestern Texas Synod participated in a pilot initiative called the Missional River, which was intended to connect congregations with what God was up to in their neighborhoods. This was an action-reflection learning project designed to help us see what it would take to begin changing the culture of our congregations and our Synod in a more missional direction. Together we learned a lot about the joys and the challenges of making lasting behavioral change. Based on these learnings, the Synod Council resolved in Fall 2015 to expand the Missional River throughout the synod as a key way that we live into our purpose.

We now have had three additional cohorts of congregations that have entered the Missional River with our strategic partner LEAD, and we invite your congregation to consider being part of Cohort #4.

We are working with congregations and their leaders to develop new behaviors that give them a greater sense of their part in God’s mission, and connect them more deeply with their neighborhoods.

LEAD COHORTS

Networked congregational leaders enter into a journey to bring transformation to their congregations. The benefit is the shared learning that comes from local leaders engaged in mission together as a learning community.

LEAD COACHING

We believe every leader—and every congregation—can grow! Growth is a choice that begins with leaders taking seriously their own faith formation and capacity building. Coaching includes LEAD Coaching for the pastor, facilitator, and communicator for each Congregational Team. LEAD’s Coaching Team is made up of trained, experienced leaders—but we know the real impact of coaching depends on the congregation’s commitment to the process.

LEAD LEARNING SEMINARS

Leading in the Missional River includes three strategic seminars:

- Seminar A—introduces the 10-step process identified for your congregation, makes a coaching plan, and launches this experience.
- Seminar B—shares God’s stories, adds leadership skills needed for the 10-step process at the mid-point of year one, and builds intentional faith practices for leaders.
- Seminar C—shares God’s stories, continues to add leadership skills in the area of leading adaptive change, and results in a strategic plan for the next two or three years.

LEAD resources will continue to be available beyond this first year but a good start makes all the difference.

Key Elements

These behaviors include:
- Listening
- Experimenting
- Action-reflection-learning in cohorts
- Sharing God stories

Making new behaviors normal takes practice and is faster and more lasting with a coach. LEAD has experienced coaches, including Jane Triplett, who was with us on the Missional River 1.0 journey.

LEAD PROCESS—TUNE IN

LEAD has a number of processes to help congregations grow deeper in their sense of mission and their ability to do what God is calling them into. We will focus on the Tune In process to begin the journey.

THE TUNE IN PROCESS
- Listening to God in scripture, in the congregation, and in the neighborhood
- Clarifying how the congregation is called to join in God’s mission
- Sharing the Gospel and doing justice with a renewed outward focus
- Practicing action-reflection learning
- Experimenting with new partnerships