

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 2008
A.R.E (A Renewal Enterprise)
Presentation by Kelly Fryer**

WHAT IS GOD'S MISSION?

Time was spent in small groups around scriptural reflections of: Acts 2:1-11; 1:6-11; 6:1-7; 8:26-40; 10:34-48

Fill in the blanks "I am on a mission to ..." (God is making the statement)

Participants filled in the above statement:

- ... and you can help.
- ... bring my message of peace through Jesus Christ, to all people by breaking down all barriers using the talents of witnesses, in wide and spiritual ways, to clearly communicate my saving work, in order to restore my kingdom.
- ...demonstrate my love and grace throughout the world by gifting people with talents to speak and share their faith with everyone.
- ... to work through you to save the world with my good news!
- ... to awaken in you my Spirit that you may recognize my Spirit in all people- that as one- you may serve one another in sacred community.
- How is God's mission of love, wholeness, grace and peace seen through us and to us? ****we were asked to draw a picture of who God has worked through us recently to bless others and then a second picture of how God has worked through others to bless us recently.**
- God's mission creates the framework for which we do God's work in the world.

Kelly introduced a structure of how we might begin an evaluation and analysis of what the mission of God is in our neighbourhood. She used the following:

P.A.W.N. analysis:

- What is our purpose? (P)
- What are our gifts and resources and assets? (A)
- What are our WOW moments, where we have partnered and where we have potential partners, even those who don't know we are partners? (W)
- What are our needs within and outside in our community? (N)

****Look at our synod, committees and boards, and congregational purposes (mission statements). Are they short and succinct so that they can be**

memorized and lived by and used to measure what is happening in the congregations? Synod Council was asked to revisit our own statement as it is quite detailed.

ASSETS

In our small groups we were asked to list assets of our synod and our community

SYNOD

COMMUNITY

God of grace	Geographical diversity forces creativity
"CROSSWORD" e-newsletter	Lutheran Community Care Centre- Thunder Bay
Improved communications	Inter church groups
Individual congregations uniqueness	"other" buildings (not worship spaces)
Anglican partnerships	Elected representation
Committed, gifted Lay leaders	Social services
Multiplying Ministries program	"grassroots" groups
Rostered ministers	Safe houses
Facilities, land, and buildings	United Way
ELW and its resources	Universities and colleges
Youth and youth work	Speakers and presenters
Committed and capable Synod staff	Centres- retreat, seniors, youth, community
Luther Village and its camping ministry	Cathy Campbell
Theologians	Health Care system
The Urban (Urban Ministry)	Other denominational connections
Musicians	Food Banks
Prairie Fire- synod youth band	CancerCare Manitoba
Synod Communications person	Aids Hospice
Dynamic, creative Bishop	Family Programming Organization
Access to professionals	Aboriginal organizations
Network of youth leaders	Immigrant organizations
Up to date website	Erma Fast Dueck
N.E. S. T.	Lobby politicians
Companion Synod Program	Ecumenical Ministerials
Growth of rostered ministry candidates	Beth McCuthcheon
Global Hunger and Development	Theresa Oswald
Ruth Vince- Dependable Strengths Program	Small group ministries
Untapped finances of congregations and individuals	CREST- refugee support
lawyers	Marlene Reguly- immigration
visionaries	

	Programs, worship with mentally challenged persons
Active twenty somethings	Political access- civic, provincial, federal
CECF monies	National church office
fundraisers	Financial, business, insurance
Physical setting	Construction consultants
Rural internships	tradespeople
ELCIC ministerials	Anglican aboriginal Bishop
Small group ministries	Anglican Mission Developer
Synod committees and boards	Policy makers
seminary	statisticians
Missions-local, national, global	Mediation services
Synod Foundation	Child and family services
Multi-generational	Police services
Theological diversity	engineers
Creative, thinking outside of the box leaders	Designers- interior;website
Access to theological, pastoral care resources- colleges, CPE, camp	Sexual Exploitation awareness groups, individuals (Ruth Vince) and program resources
Rural ministry	
Death- transforms “how we always do it” mentality; also leaves a legacy for us to use	
Spectrum of church sizes and network and awareness (intentionality)	
Experience in partnering (ecumenical, global, inter-faith, local)	
High volunteerism	
People!!!	

What is God calling you to do with these assets?

What are the obstacles to communicating these assets?

WOWS

What are our WOW moments, where we have partnered and where we have potential partners, even those who don't know we are partners?

Synod

Community

Brokenhead Area Strategy	St. Matthew's Anglican church on Maryland- land redevelopment
Joint internship initiatives	S.N.O.W.

Ecumenical diaconal ministry dialogues	River Park Gardens
Change in attitude about partnering	Weskitiwan- inner city ministry
Linking of vision and ministry actions	Adopt a grandparent program
CLWR products	10,000 villages
God-Talk radio	Foodgrains Bank
Interfaith dialogue and cooperation	Black Gold
Trinity Place- new models for shared ministry	Provincial seniors programs
Luther Village- youth leadership mentoring	Northern Hydro development- monitoring, advocacy and prophetic
Sabbaticals	Unofficial groups, i.e. coffee shops, hockey teams, seniors groups, seniors at post office, sports spectators
Urban plunge	United Way
Confirmation 101 event	Service Clubs, i.e. ELKS, Icelandic Ladies, Kinsmen, Rotary
St. Mark's Praise group	Community funding programs
God Talk media connections	M.C.C.
Faith Lutheran Church personal care home, alternative ministries	Siloam Mission
ELW	Salvation Army
Kelly Fryer	Steve Bell
SK Synod Roger Haugen, stewardship	Health Care system
Relationships with other synods	I.R.H.A. chaplaincy
Generosity of people	Community Foundations, rural and urban
friendships	Mrs. Luccis (Pinawa)
National Youth Gathering	Rural food banks
	Salvation Army anti-sex traffic organization
	Red Cross clinics, programs, sexual abuse programming, Safeteen
	Safehouses
	Shelters for poor, women and children
	Peak of the Market
	Ellice Cafe
	Habitat for Humanity
	Nature preserves

NEEDS

What needs do we have?

Synod	Community
Leadership training for church councils, committees which is easily accessed	Social justice and awareness for it- i.e. anti-racism
Financial resources	Parenting skills
Alternate ways of doing ministry	Room for difference
Need death, rebirth of congregational ministry	Multicultural education
Take hold of alternative leadership models, i.e. priesthood of all believers	Equal opportunity (free from judgment)-housing, food, employment, safety, education
Gender issues, i.e. inclusive language, equality, exploitation	environment
	Racial and ethnic tension
Aging demographic	Local resources serve local needs
Rural ministry and communities-economic and brain drain	Poverty-awareness and advocacy
Grammar lesions- remember God is subject	Homelessness-awareness and advocacy
Biblical literacy, i.e. hermeneutics and spiritual formation	Family violence
Collaborative ministry- develop team thinking	Healthy view of sexuality and relationships
Missional thinking	communication
Training for musicians	Affordable, quality housing
An new clearer understanding of "church"	Access to education
Training for lay people in worship leadership	Literacy groups and programs
Openness to change	Affordable childcare
Accessibility to regular sacramental ministry, i.e. Holy Communion	Access to Nutritious food
Leadership for lay and ordained	Access to free physical fitness
Visions for "others"	Community, block parties and gatherings
Connectedness and networking	addictions
Stewardship training	Rural despair
Move from volunteerism to servanthood	Depopulations of rural areas
Congregational re-missioning	abuse
Better connections between congregations	Spiritual needs whether they know it or not

New strategies for changing communities	Increasing immigrations
Working with contacts in non-religious groups	Increasing native communities
Prayer	Outreach and evangelism
Infect those around us with enthusiasm	Physical needs of the poor
Better communications	Teaching, educations
Balance between trying new and respecting the traditional	
Addressing rural vacancies	
Conflict resolution- member to member; pastor to member; pastor to congregation; same gender blessings issue	
Benevolence and financial giving	

What are the broad categories or commonalities in the needs?

Commonalities

From the group list of needs, put together your commonalities:

- Congregational empowerment and Renewal (priesthood of all believers, biblical literacy, grammar-God is a subject, death and rebirth of some forms of congregational ministry, access to sacraments, address vacancies) 14
- Address isolation (communications, partnering, community building) 7
- Economic and Social Justice (poverty 8, environment 4, abuse 1, rural drain/despair 8, education/literacy) 4
- Education and Church Leadership Development (skills, training, leadership skills, musicians) 11
- Spiritual Hunger and Community (outreach and evangelism, creative ways of addressing and identifying needs) 14
- Benevolence (people and money) 2
- Empowering Relationships (race, gender, family violence, sexuality) 5

Over the next few years, the resources, energy, and attention of staff, council and committees of the MNO Synod will be invested in these five missional directions

- **Renewing and empowering congregations**
- **Strengthening lay and rostered leaders**
- **Answering the spiritual hunger of our communities**
- **Tackling poverty**
- **Addressing rural despair**

How do we marshal our resources to meet these foci?

Is it possible for the congregations to embrace change so that the relationships are empowered, a spiritual hunger addressed, leaders are developed and we address isolation?

What is our capacity for addressing these foci?

**These are questions for staff, council and committees to address this year.

From Kelly Fryer:

These directions can offer clarity and focus to the work of the synod, increasing effectiveness and reducing frustration. But they will only be useful if they are *used!* That means they should help shape every program, budget, and staffing decision; they should help you say “no” when someone with a pet peeve or personal agenda tries to impose themselves on your work; they should be the areas in which you “measure” for effective ministry and for which you hold each other accountable. For example, your staffing pattern should reflect these directions. This means (among other things) that a staff member is assigned to each of these directions, staff members are relieved of duties that do not support these directions, and staff members receive whatever training they need to be effective in these areas.

I know resources are limited. But remember the “walls” we filled up with assets and wows!?! Remember that you do not have to work alone. The assets & wows helped your leaders arrive at these directions; but they can also, now, help you *strategize for action*. Go back to those wows & assets and figure out what is already happening in each missional direction...so that you can support it! Tap into all the partners you have...so that they can help you get this work done! In other words, don't make the mistake of thinking you have to do it all.

But you (meaning Bishop, staff, council, committees) SHOULD expect and be expected to do *something*. So next year at this time you can all look back and give God thanks for what has happened in each area...revisit these directions to make sure this is still where God is calling...and recommit to being a part of God's mission.