**Raising Up Laity For Church Planting In The**

**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

**Church Planting Leadership Fellowship**

**August 16-17, 2010**

**Introduction**

* LCMS plant 2000 new churches by the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.
* Southeastern District of the LCMS goal is to start 100 new missions.
* There are not enough clergy church planters to do this so the Southeastern District utilizes three approaches to get missions started and church planters in place.

**Specific Ministry Pastor**

* Local congregation identifies a man from its congregation and assigns him to a specific ministry. In the Southeastern District this is usually church planting.
* Must be accepted into an LCMS seminary SMP training.
* If church planting assessment is mandatory.
* The worker is usually bi-vocational.
* The man begins working in the ministry immediately and is receives theological training through distance learning.
* The congregation is responsible for funding the training.
* At the completion of the theological training the man is ordained as a pastor specific to the ministry that called him originally.

**Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology**

* Assessment is mandatory.
* Plant a new immigrant church
* Usually bi-vocational
* Accepted into an LCMS seminary EIIT distance education program
* M.Div. at completion
* Southeastern District and a sponsor fund this training (SED pays tuition)

**Mission Development Academy**

* Originally designed to equip a team from a congregation or partnership to start a new mission using laity initially.
* Through trial and error MDA has evolved to accommodate four potential emphasis depending on the congregation/partnership:
	+ Renewal
	+ Developing Outreach Ministry
	+ Spiritual Formation/Discipleship
	+ Church Planting – Group becomes the foundation of a launch team
* **Four Basic Modules For All Teams**
	+ **Ministry In The Emerging Culture**

Who is the Emerging Culture? What are outsiders (non-Christians) saying and thinking about the Church and about Christians? What does their view have to do with anything? Getting away from Attractional, Propositional, Colonial ministry—Headed towards Missional, Relational, and Incarnational ministry.

* + **Living In Vibrant Relationship With Jesus**

**Relationship with God**

**Relationships in the church family**

**Relationships with people outside**

**the church**

**A Trinity of Relationships**

A vivid relationship with God lies at the heart of real evangelism, which is based in a Trinity of Relationships: with God, within the congregation, and with people outside the church whose lives are not centered in Christ. The heart of evangelism emerges from the interaction of these three sets of relationships: our personal relationship with God, healthy congregational relationships, and caring about people who don’t have a conscious connection with Christ. The heart of evangelism is being in love with God, being part of a church you love, and caring about other people who do not know that faith.

* + **Focus On God’s Business**

The business that God commissioned to the church is to make disciples. This session will look at God’s range of discipleship action as it spans through the activities of Outreach, Welcome, Maturation, and Reproduction.

* + **Thinking With Outreach Perspective**

Explore a change in perspective from having people meet us where we are to meeting people where they are. This session will outline some framework for recognizing outreach strategies to gracefully meet people at various states of receptiveness to the Gospel.

* **Mission Assessment**

Present overview of the four possible tracks in which a team may continue: Congregational Renewal, Developing Outreach Ministry, Spiritual Formation/Discipleship, and Church Planting. Conduct an assessment to provide an indication of which track may be most beneficial at the current time.

* **Enter Specific Track**

Teams participate in modules designed to equip them according to the track they have chosen. Modules are scheduled 2-3 weeks apart to be completed within 3-4 months.