

East District - Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan Working Document

2008 - 2011

Our Mission:

“Called together for service, the East District shall, by God’s grace, provide support and encouragement to our congregations and church workers as they carry out our Lord’s command to make disciples of all nations.”

Our Vision:

“Vibrant, growing congregations purposefully and joyfully reaching all with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Our Lord has taught us to value:

- **Grace**
 - as an undeserved gift from God
 - in our relationships
 - in our witness
- **Worship**
 - receiving the means of grace
 - in the community of faith
 - and personally
 - through our vocations
- **Unity**
 - in our confession of faith
 - support and cooperation
 - sharing resources
- **People**
 - seeking and saving the lost
 - nurturing, catechizing, and
 - encouraging believers
 - supporting church workers
 - recognizing and using the gifts and talents God gives
 - honouring life at all stages
- **Faithfulness**
 - integrity
 - excellence
 - accountability

Our Strategic Directions:

- 1. Work together to cultivate Christ-centered, loving and outreach-oriented congregations by:**
 - 1.1 Emphasizing the vital need both for faithful participation in the Divine Service as well as personal, family and corporate Bible study and prayer; and for focus on the mission of seeking and saving the lost and straying.
 - 1.2 Providing leadership training and support for church workers and parishioners.
 - 1.3 Providing support both for existing work in strategic locations and for new and expanded opportunities for extending the Kingdom.
 - 1.4 Addressing the increasing stress under which church workers labour, and providing them and their families with better care.

- 2. Work together to grow the financial and other resources available for the mission of the Church by:**

- 2.1 Communicating effectively the mutual fiscal and other responsibilities and accountabilities between the District and its congregations.
- 2.2 Growing our Church Extension Fund and Planned Giving activities to maximize long-term financial stability.
- 2.3 Evaluating existing programs, missions and resources for cost-effectiveness and efficiency and taking appropriate action.
- 2.4 Developing opportunities with congregational approval for over-and-above directed giving.
- 2.5 Providing increased opportunities for our people to use their time and talents in acts of service that make a difference in the church and world.

- 3. Work together to develop intercultural congregations and missions by:**

- 3.1 Developing and supporting a variety of intercultural mission partnerships.
- 3.2 Identifying and developing intercultural leaders.
- 3.3 Providing financial and people resources, advice and support for intercultural work particularly in urban areas.
- 3.4 Sensitizing our congregations to the opportunities for intercultural ministry and challenging them to act.

- 4. Work together to enhance communication and partnerships by:**

- 4.1 Improving communication and cooperation between our District and congregations.
- 4.2 Seeking to remove communication barriers between our District and parishioners
- 4.3 Strengthening the role of District Liaisons
- 4.4 Strengthening partnerships and cooperation with Lutheran Church-Canada auxiliaries, Listed Service Organizations and other organizations.

- 5. Work together to strengthen and promote Lutheran theology and education by:**

- 5.1 Strengthening doctrinal unity on an ongoing basis.
- 5.2 Strengthening and supporting Christian education for children.
- 5.3 Encouraging ongoing education in Lutheran doctrine for youth and adults
- 5.4 Assisting congregations with comprehensive planning for the development of viable Lutheran schools.

Prepared in conjunction with the 2006 Strategic Plan of Lutheran Church–Canada

Approved, East District Planning Conference – Nov. 1, 2008