

Resolution

Subject: Strategic Direction for the Province
From: Covenant Partner Groups

WHEREAS, the Synod of 2010 of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, has included, as part of its work, strategic planning to guide the direction of the Province during the next four-year intersynodal period; and,

WHEREAS, Synod delegates participating in the Covenant Partner Groups have worked diligently to discern the will of Christ, followed the leading of the Holy Spirit, and developed a strategic vision and priorities for our Province; and,

WHEREAS, the recommendations and reports of the Covenant Partner Groups, including Priority Initiatives and Directional Statements, were presented to the Synod of 2010 at the September 11th afternoon Plenary Session; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Synod of 2010 acknowledges the value of the strategic planning process undertaken by the Covenant Partner Groups and expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the facilitators, recorders and all participants in this process; and,

RESOLVED, That the Synod of 2010 adopts the reports of the Covenant Partner Groups and forwards them to the Provincial Elders' Conference as a strategic vision to guide the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, during the next intersynodal period.

**The 2010 Synod beholds God making all things new
in the following ways in the eight characteristics of a healthy congregation**

With respect to LEADERSHIP, we see God leading:

to recruit, develop and nurture leaders, among the laity, boards and professional staff, with a sense of discipleship, mission, and community, and equipped with communications, conflict management, and other spiritual disciplines to lead small groups, congregations, and our Province, as guided by God's Holy Spirit.

Priority Initiatives for LEADERSHIP (1):

Foster open and trusting communications and conflict management programming

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Programming currently in place, "Conflict Resolution Plan for the Southern Province," Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Herrnhut Tradition (Covenant for Christian Living), various communications media

Priority Initiatives for LEADERSHIP (2):

Development and implementation of plan for small group ministries within congregations

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Churches currently using a successful model of this type of ministry (RCCs), the Resource Center of the Board of Christian Education (Southern Province)

Other Priority Initiatives Identified

Identification, recruitment & support/mentoring of clergy and ministerial staff
Intentional and clear leadership training and development for clergy and laity

With respect to GROWTH, we see God leading:

to grow in spirit and numbers, churches need to focus on a few specific core ministries that are intentional in growing members and participation in number, in discipleship and in relationship and be intentional with connecting visitors to the congregation.

Priority Initiative for GROWTH (1):

Focus on core ministries, such as youth; teach parents to keep youth in church; mission; attractive church fellowships offering variety of experiences; or other programs responsive to the leading of God in each congregation.

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Music, "We eat well," team ministries, "Loving Hearts United," work of BCM and RCC's, ecumenical relationships, Laurel Ridge and other "church owned lands," literature/history from BCE, BEHM and IBOC, people resources

Priority Initiative for GROWTH (2):

Focus on intentional greetings ministry, which might include a more systematic approach to Sunday morning greeting; printed calling cards to give visitors; website/social media outreach; neighborhood outreach; and "Open Door" lunches among other ideas.

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Strong ability/desire to greet people, extroverted members best at greeting folks, record on index cards when meeting with new folks (connection building), welcome bags, name tags, individual popcorn (“pop-in’s”), roll call for baptized children

With respect to WORSHIP, we see God leading:

To worship that encompasses all of life and deserves our fullest attention in education, preparation, leadership and full-hearted participation.

Priority Initiative for WORSHIP (1):

Creating a worship atmosphere in our congregations in which all can grow into the fullness of the Triune God so that worship becomes a way of life.

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Tradition, nurturing Relational Theology (seeing Christ in others), recognizing the gifts of others, creativity of our worship leaders, Daily Texts and Liturgical Church Year

Priority Initiative for WORSHIP (2):

Intentional education of clergy and laity in order to encourage broader and richer participation and understanding in leadership and the practice of worship.

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Christian and Moravian history, tradition and practices, music (old and new in a variety of styles), valuing education for all people

With respect to STEWARDSHIP, we see God leading:

to a deeper understanding of our discipleship and baptismal identity.

Priority Initiative for STEWARDSHIP (1):

We will claim and affirm our stewardship of creation and all God has given us as an essential part of our discipleship with Jesus Christ.

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Existing Moravian Resources, scriptures/worship, hymn writers/liturgist, stewardship commission, RCCs

Priority Initiative for STEWARDSHIP (2):

All generations of the church will be engaged in transformative experiences, educational and missional opportunities, growing significantly into our baptized identity as stewards.

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Existing educational and missional opportunities, existing resources that teach, RCCs and workshops, Laurel Ridge

With respect to COOPERATION, we see God leading:

to sharing freely, facing and resolving conflict, making the whole greater than the sum of the parts and co-creating a safe open place for interaction.

Priority Initiative for COOPERATION (1):

Connecting with the inactives and with the disengaged (unchurched)

Priority Initiative for COOPERATION (2):

Sharing of assets/gifts– freely sharing all God has given from the individual to ecumenical level

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Food (chicken pies, cookies, other food), special worship, education, programs, preschool, youth and members invitation, community mission-blitz/service, new provincial structure and ecumenical partnerships, facilities and technology, ministry associations, educators and materials/resource center

Other Priority Initiatives Identified

Big dream in your congregation

Conflict resolution task force

With respect to MINISTRY, we see God leading:

“Down and Out,” tapping more deeply into the assets God has given us so we can look and reach outward in mission.

Priority Initiative for MINISTRY (1):

Engage, encourage, equip and empower all generations of lay and ordained leaders, especially by attending to the spiritual needs of the youth

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Educational institutions, grants, camps and conferences, persons w/expertise, mission work, mentoring programs, internships/networking with each other & agencies

Priority Initiative for MINISTRY (2):

In everything be Christ-centered, living and working in line with Scripture, proclaiming the Savior, giving God the glory

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Music, art, drama, serving, Sunday Schools, small groups, *lectio divina*, prayer, daily texts, Gemeinschaft, intentionality

With respect to RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST, we see God leading:
to teaching and building a strong Christian Foundation in order to create new relationships with Christ and an ongoing atmosphere of revival, renewal and rededication.

Priority Initiative for RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST (1):

Teaching and building a strong Christian foundation

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Resources/materials for teaching youth & adults, including other denominations, Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, infusion of human resources/help

Priority Initiative for RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST (2):

More emphasis on creating an atmosphere of ongoing revival, renewal and rededication

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Dynamic leaders and volunteers; time and space for creating a proper atmosphere; spiritually, physically and mentally healthy leaders

Other Priority Initiatives Identified

Strengthen Christian families in the congregation by establishing, focus groups and other learning opportunities.

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Parenting/marriage/educational programs, empty-nester programs, family devotion materials

With respect to MISSION, we see God leading:
to intentionally discipling, equipping, resourcing and using the gifts of youth to prepare them to minister to their peers (e.g. ages 18-30).

Priority Initiative for MISSION (1):

Intentionally equipping, resourcing and using the gifts of youth to prepare them to minister to their peers (e.g. ages 18-30)

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Ministers with experience for church planting, congregation support, Laurel Ridge

Priority Initiative for MISSION (2):

Coordinate with RCC's or ecumenical partners to address needs and social issues in the community.

Supporting Resources/Assets:

Central resources that churches can draw from, Moravian Volunteer Resources, community resources (i.e. social services)