



Moving Forward Together 2012

BACKGROUND

The Special Synod of 2009 approved a new structure and a new focus for our Province. The new structure includes new roles and responsibilities for the different components of the Southern Province. The new focus centers on eight interrelated characteristics of healthy congregations. (See page 4 for a brief listing).

Working with these eight characteristics, the Synod of 2010 approved Resolution 34, providing a **strategic direction** for our congregations and province to be implemented over the intersynodal period, 2011-2014. (See page 4 for a brief list of the direction statements. The full text of Resolution 34 can be found at www.mcsp.org)

One of the new functions of the PEC is to set **priorities and goals** based on Synod's strategic vision and then pass those priorities along to our congregations and to the Board of Cooperative Ministries.

WHAT CONGREGATIONS ARE BEING ASKED TO DO

In response to the strategic direction of Synod and the priorities set by the PEC each congregation is asked to:

- Get to know the eight characteristics of healthy congregations.
- Review the relative strength of each characteristic in the congregation.
- Consider the 2-3 characteristics that the PEC has decided to emphasize each year (see below).
- Determine which of the eight characteristics will be an area of focus for development.
 - At least one characteristic should be chosen, and probably no more than three in any given year.
 - Congregations are encouraged (**but not required**) to focus on the characteristics the PEC is emphasizing. They may adapt the emphases suggested by the PEC for their own particular needs and context.
- Develop specific plans about how the chosen areas will be addressed.
- Have specific ways of measuring or determining progress.

- Network and share within the RCC to discover best practices, resources, ideas, etc.
- Utilize the BCM and its staff for support, resource and consultation.
- Follow through on the plans that are made, measurement of progress, etc.

The process outlined above can be simplified into these three questions:

- “Where are we going?” -- Which of the eight characteristics are we focusing on as a congregation?
- “How will we get there?” – What are the specific plans we have for addressing the chosen area(s) and moving toward greater vitality?
- “How will we know when we have arrived?” – What measurements for progress toward our goals do we have?

PEC EMPHASES FOR 2012: LEADERSHIP and MISSION

Ministry and Cooperation were suggested emphases for 2011. The PEC has chosen to emphasize **LEADERSHIP and MISSION** for 2012:

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>	<u>Synod Strategic Direction Statement</u>
Leadership	Ensuring wise direction, administration and accountability for the community.	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.
Mission	An outward focus that networks locally, nationally and globally to remember, seek out, and serve our neighbors	Intentionally discipling, equipping, resourcing and using the gifts of youth to prepare them to minister to their peers (e.g. ages 18-30).

For fuller descriptions of Leadership and Mission and complete information on the strategic direction from Synod, please see the resources at www.mcsp.org.

Here are some suggested ways that Leadership and Mission can be addressed:

LEADERSHIP:

1. Plan and/or participate in an idea-sharing "best practices" gathering with members of their RCC. For example, host a meeting of those involved in Christian education to share successes and challenges; convene a meeting of those responsible for "buildings and grounds" to share resources.
2. RCCs host a discussion on "small group ministry", and each congregation identify a new small group ministry to implement in 2012; review experiences in late 2012 (Boards and/or RCC).
3. Ensure RCC member attendance at the 2012 Intersynodal Gathering (April 27-28, 2012).
4. Arrange for leaders to participate in at least one educational event on conflict management and/or communication skills in 2012
5. Plan a leadership development retreat or event for board members, committee chairs, and other ministry leaders, including new and prospective leaders.
6. Recognize and celebrate the gifts and contributions of church leaders via a "worker's Lovefeast" or during a special worship service or other event(s).

MISSION:

1. Identify at least 1 initiative to enhance congregational understanding of a "day in the life" of youth and young adults.
2. Participate in at least one intentional mission-oriented gathering of/for youth of partner congregations.
3. Each RCC identify one community need to focus on together for 2012.
4. Plan an intergenerational mission study series for Sunday School, mid-week programming, or a seasonal emphasis.
5. Plan and carry out a way for youth in your church or RCC to have an ongoing connection with youth in another province of the Moravian Unity (perhaps making use of social media or other technology).

Eight Characteristics of Healthy Congregations

(As adopted by the 2009 special Synod. Full descriptions are at www.mcsp.org)

Focus on Relationship with Christ personally and corporately: Bringing individuals and the congregation into greater harmony with God with a new sense of faith, love and hope.

Mission: An outward focus that networks locally, nationally and globally to remember, seek out, and serve our neighbors.

Growth: Increasing participation, attendance and membership.

Leadership: Ensuring wise direction, administration and accountability for the community.

Worship: Proclaiming God's Word through scripture, preaching, music and sacrament.

Cooperation: Bringing church members into greater harmony with one another to build community.

Stewardship: The effective use of individual and community time, talent and treasure.

Ministry: The processes through which we learn and grow as individuals and in community to care for ourselves and serve others.

Strategic Direction Statements

(From 2010 Synod resolution # 34. See www.mcsp.org for the complete text)

Focus on Relationship with Christ personally and corporately: 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.

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

Growth: 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.

Leadership: 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.

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

Cooperation: 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.

Stewardship: to a deeper understanding of our discipleship and baptismal identity.

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