

MISSION TABLE

Definition & Scope

Last updated June 2023

Vital congregations are communities of Jesus where there are life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world.

From ELCA Christian Community and Leadership

This description reminds us to remain focused on Gospel-centered relationships as the primary marker of congregational vitality. We hold the Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) as foundational for our understanding of Jesus' work in and through the Church.

Our synod's Dream/Outreach Team will accompany congregations and ministries in specific, intentional processes designed to enhance congregational vitality. As such, this group will establish, equip and encourage various teams, task forces, guiding coalitions, etc., to accomplish the following:

- Inspiring and supporting congregations engaging in missional work, including those using alternative models of ministry to traditional church planting (e.g. Faithful Innovation, Fresh Expressions, Dinner Church)
- Planting of new mission starts, SAWCs (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community) and SAWC (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community) Explorations
- Praying for the leaders and participants of these new mission starts, SAWC's, and SAWC Explorations
- Participating in review teams for new mission starts, SAWCs, and SAWC Explorations
- Supporting Launch Team processes in new mission congregations and congregations birthing new missions internally
- Recommending allocation of new missions funds and determining synod outreach team priorities
- Facilitating area strategies that result in community and congregational vitality
- Exploration of ecumenical partnerships for the sake of evangelical mission
- Partnership with the DEM as the MCS engages ELCA congregational vitality resources (e.g. grants & training)
- Inspiring, Empowering, and Connecting lay leaders across the synod
- Enhancement and expansion of cross-cultural/multi-cultural ministry

Time Commitment: 3-4 hours/mo.

This team generally meets for 60 minutes via Zoom each month, at a time to be determined to be best suited for involvement of all members. In the future, meetings may also take place in person. Between meetings, members may take on additional responsibilities, working with various taskforces, participating in ministry reviews, or consulting with congregational leaders.

Other Commitments:

This team will strive to reflect the depth and breadth of wisdom in our synod. Annually after synod assembly, meeting agenda will include discussion and discernment around the question, “who else needs to be invited into this work?” This discussion will include representation by those of varied races, ethnicities, gender identities, lay/clergy, and geographic representation.

How members are chosen:

Members are invited to consider joining based on the wisdom and suggestions of the existing Dream/Outreach Team members or synod staff members (see “other commitments” section above). Some members may identify themselves to the Director for Evangelical Mission if they have interest in serving.