

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2.*

## **MARKS OF CONGREGATIONAL RENEWAL**

Congregations experiencing renewal demonstrate the following:

1. Joy.
2. Spiritual depth and vitality with worship, scripture study and prayer as central activities involving more and more people.
3. A Clear sense of purpose and identity with biblically based guiding principles that are shared by all.
4. Growing lay leadership. Leaders working together and continually equipping others to take leadership roles.
5. A deepened connection to and partnership with the surrounding community.
6. A passion for and a Commitment take action to carry out God's mission in the world.
7. The discovery of more-than-sufficient resources for carrying out God's mission in the community.

Renewal teams who participate can expect to:

- Experience great worship and digging into the Bible.
- Get tools for getting to know and engaging their community.
- Make a six months plan of action.
- Become a transformed team and bring the spirit of transformation back to you congregation.



# **Renewing Your Congregation: FOR GOD'S MISSION**

February 24-25, 2012

Joy Ranch  
Watertown, South Dakota

**The church  
has left  
the building.**



**South Dakota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# IS YOUR CONGREGATION READY FOR RENEWAL?

Congregational renewal is a spiritual process by which the members of a congregation become deeply rooted in their faith and the congregation becomes deeply rooted in the community. Renewing congregations experience a sense of vibrancy, numerical growth, and an increased capacity to carry out God's mission.

## ABOUT THE "PROCESS"

This is not a program or a project. It is process that involves the whole congregation. It begins with prayer and in depth study of the Book of Acts. Selected leaders attend four one-day Training Modules over a period of about 18 months – 2 years. This training equips leaders to guide their congregations into God's new future.

## THE FOUR TRAINING EVENTS

**EVENT 1** – (February 24-25) *Spiritual Transformation* – the first phase of training focuses on deepening faith practices and developing a clear sense of God's call.

**EVENT 2** – (5-6 months later) *Systemic Transformation* – the second phase of training focuses on leading change to bring the congregation's life and work in line with what God is calling the congregation to be and do.

**EVENTS 3 & 4** – (3-4 months later \* 2) *Sending Transformation* – the third and fourth phases of training focus on planning and carrying out mission in the community - it may involve a "missional experiment" in which the congregation tests out their new sense of what God is calling them to do in the community.

## HOW CAN CONGREGATIONS BECOME PART OF THIS PROCESS?

- The Bishop and the Director of Evangelical Mission identify and encourage congregations to participate that could benefit from such a process.
- The Director of Evangelical Mission and the South Dakota Synod Mission Strategy teams assist the selected congregations in preparing for entering the renewal training process.
- The Congregation and Synod establish a Covenant in which the congregation commits to the "Three Great Listeners:" listening to God, to each other and to the community
- The Congregation selects a Team (including the sr. pastor) of 4-5 to form the renewal team.
- The renewal team attends the four training events, carries out the plan and meets on a regular basis with their assigned coach.

*Pastors and lay leaders find the training events a time for spiritual growth and renewed commitment to God's mission.*

## EVENT COST\*

**Registration = \$100 per congregation** (non-refundable check payable to "South Dakota Synod" du with registration form).

**Lodging, meals = \$165 per person**, to be paid by check made out to "South Dakota Synod" upon arrival: the event site.

### Event Registration:

Send registrations to:

Kevin Stillson  
South Dakota Synod, ELCA  
2001 S. Summit Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

Or email: [kstillson@sdsynod.org](mailto:kstillson@sdsynod.org)

For Additional Information contact  
Pastor Bill Tesch  
at 605-274-4026 or [btesch@sdsynod.org](mailto:btesch@sdsynod.org)

## OTHER POTENTIAL COSTS\*

The congregation will be assigned a coach and should plan to reimburse the coach for travel related to the coach's monthly coaching visits. It is also recommended that the congregation offer the coach a small honorarium of \$75 per coachir session.

## HELP WITH COSTS

Small "encouragement grants" of up to \$200.00 per year are available to congregations who chose to participate in this renewal effort. These are a awarded on an as needed basis.