

Strategic Mission Planning

Strategic Mission Planning: *What does this mean?*

Through the *Strategic Mission Planning* process, we seek to discover the intersection of the church's unique context of ministry, unique gifts and resources, and unique identity as the called and gathered people of God. We use those three facets to shape a strategy for God's mission in a posture of prayerful planning. The Mission of God never changes, but how we fulfill in that mission is constantly changing. We plan accordingly.

“Go, make disciples of all nations.” -Jesus

Strategic Mission Planning: *How is this done?*

- A team of 10-12 people gathers to discover how best to align their unique gifts and resources with the community's needs for the sake of God's mission in their church.
- They learn the difference between God's provision for his mission and the mission itself.
- They study important data about their community supplied through MissionInsite® demographic reports.
- They work out a mission statement, identify values of the church, strategies they will utilize, and milestones toward God's vision for their church's mission.
- The team will typically invest 9-18 hours over a period of several weeks in the process.
- They present a preliminary report to the congregation before offering a finalized plan for formal adoption by the congregation.

God is the First Missionary. In the Garden of Eden, he sought out Adam and Eve after their fall, “Adam, where are you?” He made a promise through Ezekiel, “I myself will search for my sheep and seek them out” (Ezekiel 34:11). Jesus' own words testify that he came “to seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). God calls us to join him in this mission. He also reminds us that he has plans for our good (Jeremiah 29:11-13) and gives guidance to our planning efforts (Proverbs 15:22, 26; 16:1, 3; James 4:13-17). God wants us to be effective and productive in our knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5-8). He promises that our labor in the Lord's mission is never in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58), and that he will be with us every step of the way (Matthew 28:16-20).

An Example of SMP Process Meeting Schedule

	Milestone	Time Investment	Participants
Meeting 1	Mission/Vision/Values	3-6 Hours	Team and CSS
Meeting 2	Strategies & Milestones	3-6 Hours	Team and CSS
Meeting 3	Initial Report to Congregational Leaders	1-2 Hours	Team & Congregational Leaders
Meeting 4	Fine Tuning & Finalization of Plan	1-2 Hours	Team
Meeting 5	Presentation to Congregation for Formal Adoption	1-2 Hours	Team and Congregation

You are encouraged to *invite specific people* to participate and let them know what that will involve (above). Assure potential team members that the work is inspiring and rewarding. Those who serve will be blessed as they bless one another and the church by their work.

The kinds of folks you would seek to involve in this effort would be:

- Committed members who are active in worship and Bible class, community, or discipleship groups
- Those who want to see your church succeed in her God-given mission and who have a missional heart for those outside your fellowship
- Those who are willing to express their opinions and ideas while listening to others and weighing their ideas and thoughts (Not someone with a personal agenda or an axe to grind)
- A range of people in terms of age and gender
- A range of people in terms of length of membership (Newer members are more sensitive to issues that long-time members may easily overlook. Longtime members have a base of knowledge and experience vital to the process.)

Rev. David Bahn, D. Min

Congregation Support Specialist, Area D
 Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 David.Bahn@txlcms.org
 c: 713.492.8308

