

# Missional Transformation

Everything we do as a Christian community relates in some way to God's sending of the church to participate in God's mission. We once thought of the church as the sending agency; missionaries were the people who the church sent. Now as we read Scripture afresh in a North American context that is itself mission territory, we realize that *God is a sending God*, and *the church is the sent people*. What is God sending the church to be and do? The answer is expressed by each local congregation as it discerns and designs its life and ministry in response to the sending God.

## Can you imagine...

- ⇒ discovering anew what it means to be the church — God's people of salt and light?
- ⇒ a community of Christ's followers, learning to live as committed disciples?
- ⇒ people no longer content to simply be consumers of a church's Sunday morning programs?
- ⇒ increased excitement about and greater sharing in the Christian faith?
- ⇒ increased clarity of purpose as a congregation?
- ⇒ a greater sense of trust and unity, pulling together toward common goals?
- ⇒ developing leaders who are wise in both world and Word, offering sound and balanced guidance for the church's ministry?
- ⇒ your church more responsive to missional opportunities?
- ⇒ broader participation in decision-making and ministries of the church?
- ⇒ not just talking about God's mission, but also organizing to move concretely toward realizing that vision?
- ⇒ savings in time and money by focusing your congregation's energies, asking the important questions, putting the spotlight on key results?
- ⇒ new measuring of congregational fruitfulness: not by budgetary or membership goals, but by evidence of the fruit of the Spirit?

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## issional Questions *Asked and Answered on the Transformation Journey*

### DISCOVERING

1. Why does the world need the church?
2. Why does our community in particular need our church?

### DISCERNING

1. What is God's vision for us?
2. What key practices will express God's vision?

### EMBODYING

1. How will we embody God's vision in our life and mission?
2. How will we live into God's future?

## Local Church Investment

- ◆ Six training seminars over a three-year period
- ◆ \$2,500 for resource materials and event expenses

## Local Church Support

- ◆ Participation with other church leaders in the process together
- ◆ Ongoing presence of a coach familiar with the process
- ◆ Prayers and participation of members of the congregation

*Be watching for  
announcements about  
Come and See events  
this fall to learn more!*

*AN OPPORTUNITY FOR  
LEADING YOUR CONGREGATION  
INTO THE FUTURE*



*For more information  
contact:*

### **Scott Hibben**

*Leadership Development Minister  
for Evangelism and New Ministry  
Iowa United Methodist Conference Center  
2301 Rittenhouse Street  
Des Moines, IA 50321-3101  
515-974-8926  
scott.hibben@iaumc.org*

or

*your district's  
Field Outreach Minister*

# What are the features of a transformation journey for your congregation?

## **Participatory**

The process involves the entire congregation in a variety of ways and times, in gatherings large and small, in study, prayer, conversation, discernment, planning and action.

## **Missional**

The process is not based on marketing surveys or focus groups. Rather, members and leaders engage one another in discerning God's calling, taking seriously the current cultural context, and discovering life together as a community formed by the Holy Spirit.

## **Strategic**

The congregation makes direction-setting decisions from a missional perspective. It makes decisions that will have long-term effects, impacting every aspect and segment of life in our congregation.

## **Rewarding**

Leaders and members together will discover this to be a learning journey of spiritual depth. Participants will experiment with and experience Christian community in new ways. They consistently report, "We are learning what it means to be the church and to live missionally." There is new excitement and shared focus."

## Milestones for the Journey

### **workshop 1:**

#### **GETTING READY FOR THE JOURNEY**

- ◆ Hold a Bible Study to begin forming our church around God's vision: "Behold: There Is a New Creation".
- ◆ Hold a congregational *Conference on the Past*.

### **workshop 2:**

#### **DISCOVERING OUR MISSIONAL CONTEXT**

- ◆ Engage the worshipping congregation in testing some hypotheses about the realities we are facing (over a series of Sundays).
- ◆ Hold a congregational *Conference on the Present*.
- ◆ Complete the naming of highest priority opportunities/challenges facing us: "Discovering How Our Church Organization Works" survey.
- ◆ Enlist a Vision Panel.
- ◆ Get training with the Coordinating Team.

### **workshop 3:**

#### **DISCERNING GOD'S CALL**

- ◆ Hold a congregational Bible Study for discerning God's vision.
- ◆ Hold a congregational Vision Retreat for sharing and testing personal visions (providing input for Guiding Vision).

### **workshop 4:**

#### **NAVIGATING BY GOD'S VISION**

- ◆ Draft and interact with a Guiding Vision.
- ◆ Hold a Congregational Leaders Workshop to craft a Missional Strategy (to articulate our mission, key practices, participant groups, and core commitments).
- ◆ Invite the congregation to engage and interact with the Missional Strategy.
- ◆ Enlist and prepare leaders and members for shaping our future life and witness.

### **workshop 5:**

#### **SHAPING MISSIONAL LIFE AND WITNESS**

- ◆ Hold a congregational *Conference on the Future*.
- ◆ Engage the Design Teams in follow-up steps to develop a missional plan.
- ◆ Shape and share plans with the congregation.
- ◆ Decide to move into implementation of the plan.

### **workshop 6:**

#### **LIVING INTO A FAITHFUL FUTURE**

- ◆ Equip and orient council and teams for their new ministry.
- ◆ Plan to make the changes and manage the transitions.
- ◆ Begin implementation.
- ◆ Hold a Congregational Bible Study on becoming a missional community.
- ◆ Continue regularly scheduled *ongoing* review and planning.