

**Report of the Chair, Mission Strategies
Table (formerly Synod Outreach and
Evangelism)
Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Tim Linstrom

June 4 – 6, 2009

Changes in the structure of Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit of the ELCA over the past year, has meant changes for the Synod Outreach and Evangelism team.

Heather McCulloch's position is no longer paid by the synod through church-wide grants and synod support, but she is now paid solely through the ELCA. Although she is now a full-time ELCA church-wide staff person, she will continue to serve as an assistant to the Bishop, as Director of Evangelical Mission for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

The I-K Synod Outreach and Evangelism Team is also undergoing a restructuring as the oversight of new and renewing congregations will no longer be under the direction of the SOET. A new team, or Mission Table, will be formed with their primary emphasis on developing new mission starts and renewing congregations.

The SOET will continue to work on developing local mission strategies through the Conference Outreach and Evangelism Teams, and supporting mission initiatives, campus ministries, and culture specific ministries through grants, education, and technical support.

At the time of this writing, many of the details of this restructuring have not been formalized, but this new plan will allow more emphasis and specialization to be placed in these two separate areas of mission, both of which are vital to the mission and the Great Commission of our Church.

As our synod continues its emphasis on "Every Person a Missionary," the intentions of this team, the Mission Strategies Table, is to better support and involve individuals, congregations, and conferences in various mission initiatives to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to every corner of the synod. There are many approaches and strategies to accomplish this goal, as there are many resources to consult, but none of them will prove fruitful without action. Three key ingredients that lay the foundation for action, the kind of action necessary to develop a mission mindset in congregations are:

- individuals who know why they are there
- the willingness to change
- the presence of strong lay leadership

With the help of the Holy Spirit and these three characteristics, we can begin to fulfill our call to be missionaries, mission directors, and mission centers. Our challenge is to develop these three key ingredients within our congregations.

We look forward to supporting your mission initiatives in the coming year!

During the past year, Mission Initiative grants were awarded to:

- ❖ Risen Lord, Bargersville (toward a new, more visible sign)
- ❖ Abundant Grace, Greenwood (toward a new logo, signs, and brochures)
- ❖ Indiana University Campus Ministry, Bloomington (toward Book of Faith study groups with student leaders)
- ❖ Lamb of God, Indianapolis (toward the cost of a three-night community revival)
- ❖ Faith, Fort Wayne (toward new neighborhood outreach)

Pastor Betsy Dartt, who has served as chair of the Synod Outreach and Evangelism team for many years has stepped down and Pastor Tim Linstrom will now serve as chair of the team. We give thanks for all the years of dedicated service Pastor Dartt has given to the work of the synod and for her passion for outreach and evangelism. Thanks for everything, Betsy!

This is going to be an exciting year for mission in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and the changes that are already forming should serve our synod well. I encourage everyone to develop a mission mindset and get involved in congregations and conferences.

Remember, we have been commanded by Christ to do so!

Rev. Tim Linstrom, Chair, Mission Strategies Table