

"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." (Proverbs 22:6)



Synod Christian Education Team Annual Report for 2009

We have been encouraged, equipped, and empowered by the vision of our synod and our mission statement.

The vision of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod – every person a missionary – affirms the basic need for faith formation and discipleship training in our congregations.

The mission statement of the Synod Christian Education Team is to encourage, equip, and empower believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.

Seven faith practices have been identified with the ELCA's Call to Discipleship: Pray, Study, Worship, Invite, Encourage, Serve, and Give. At our annual CET retreat, we have adopted the following four practices as our operating principles.

Pray. We pray for congregation members, education leaders, and pastors as they undertake this primary ministry of education and discipleship. Each month our team members would pray, individually, for one of the conferences in a rotating schedule. We invited the conference dean and congregations to share prayer requests ahead of time. For an entire month, we prayed for the rostered and lay leaders who were doing the primary ministry of faith formation and discipleship training in those congregations and schools in the conference for a month.

Encourage. We encourage the quality and growth of education ministries; this is done via LACE, NCLA, CRC, and Augsburg Fortress. The Team has encouraged quality and growth of our educational ministries. We were present at the 2009 Celebration of Ministries in Ft. Wayne to build relationships with voting members and visitors. We supported the I-K Synod Assembly Lunch Conversation about the Book of Faith Initiative. Team members were invited to make power point presentations to several I-K Synod Conference meetings. The presentations were specifically tailored to their interests and requests. (i.e. East Central Ministrium in Portland, Lafayette Conference Spring Rally, and in Mishawaka a Sunday School Workshop) An on-line copy of *Faith Formers Handbook* is available at the synod website, Christian Education page. Anyone may view and/or download specific or all pages, and freely adapt, copy, and distribute. The Team completed studying *The Lutheran Handbook II*, edited by Kristofer Skrade, and began a DVD course "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible", by Dr. Mark Allen Powell.

Serve. We Serve congregations by equipping individuals to participate in or lead Bible-based studies of Scripture (Book of Faith Initiative). The Team plans to conduct Book of Faith leader training sessions in 2010. We value our membership in the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE), and the National Church Library Association (NCLA). We maintain partnership with the Congregational Resource Center (CRC) in Indianapolis, and with Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. There are immediate links to these resources on the synod web site, at the Christian Education page.

Give. We give ideas and timely tips through I-K Synod Web site including, but not limited to, [ed.network](#) newsletter and Faith Formers Handbook. The Team has continued to give better ideas and time-sensitive information through the synod's weekly e-newsletter, web site, and [ed.network](#). The [ed.network](#) is our on-line publication for clergy and lay leaders in Christian education. This publication is available for downloading on the home page of www.iksynod.org.

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The word train can be a noun or verb. The noun includes the engine to the last car, each car linked to the next and all cars traveling in a forward direction. Train as a verb has several meanings: to prepare, to discipline, to aim, to teach, to prime, to direct.

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