

Dear I-K Synod EPAMers,

The former I-K Synod Outreach and Evangelism team is in the midst of transforming into a new entity, with a new approach to mission, outreach, and evangelism.

The focus of what will be called the "Renewing Mission Table" is to nurture and develop existing congregations into vitalized, mission-minded, outreach-oriented, relationship-building mission centers.

Part of our initial plan is to develop a team of Mission Coaches who will receive training to work with congregations as mission developers and advocates, and to equip them for mission in their context.

Using community organizing strategies like "one-to-ones," Mission Coaches will be able to help congregations identify community needs, improve communication, and recognize the gifts a congregation already has.

The mutual support and networking that EPAM was developing would be another vital link in establishing and nurturing relationships within congregations, between congregations, and with other mission-minded individuals and resources.

We plan to start small by training our first Mission Coaches, identifying congregations as pilot projects, and learning from our efforts. From these seeds, God will no doubt produce a harvest that will far exceed our expectations. We also hope to develop some funding streams to support our efforts.

As EPAMers, you have already expressed an interest and passion for outreach and that is why you are being invited to participate and help develop this vital ministry, and attend our next planning meeting at the I-K Synod office, Saturday, January 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time (Indianapolis Time).

Given less than two weeks notice, we understand that many of you will not be able to attend, but please reply if you will be attending. If you cannot attend but are interested in becoming involved, please reply so that we may maintain correspondence with you. For all attending, an agenda will be made available to you later this week.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and keep the Renewing Mission Table in your prayers as we strive to fulfill our call to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Tim Linstrom
Chair, Renewing Mission Table
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