

WE ARE CALLED !



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Metropolitan Chicago Synod



HOW ARE WE DOING?



- Strengths:
 - Financial Assets
 - Leadership
 - Diversity
 - Passion

HOW ARE WE DOING?



- Weaknesses

- Underutilized Assets
- Age and Size
- Lack of Diversity
- Weak Evangelical Impulse

HOW ARE WE DOING?



- Threats

- Cultural Rejection
- Ethical Complacency
- Failure of Nerve
- Shrinking Imagination

HOW ARE WE DOING?



- OPPORTUNITY!
- Huge Mission Field
- Ecumenical/ Interfaith
- Intersectionality
- Vast Global Networks

WHAT SHALL WE KEEP?

- *“Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” Matt 13:52*

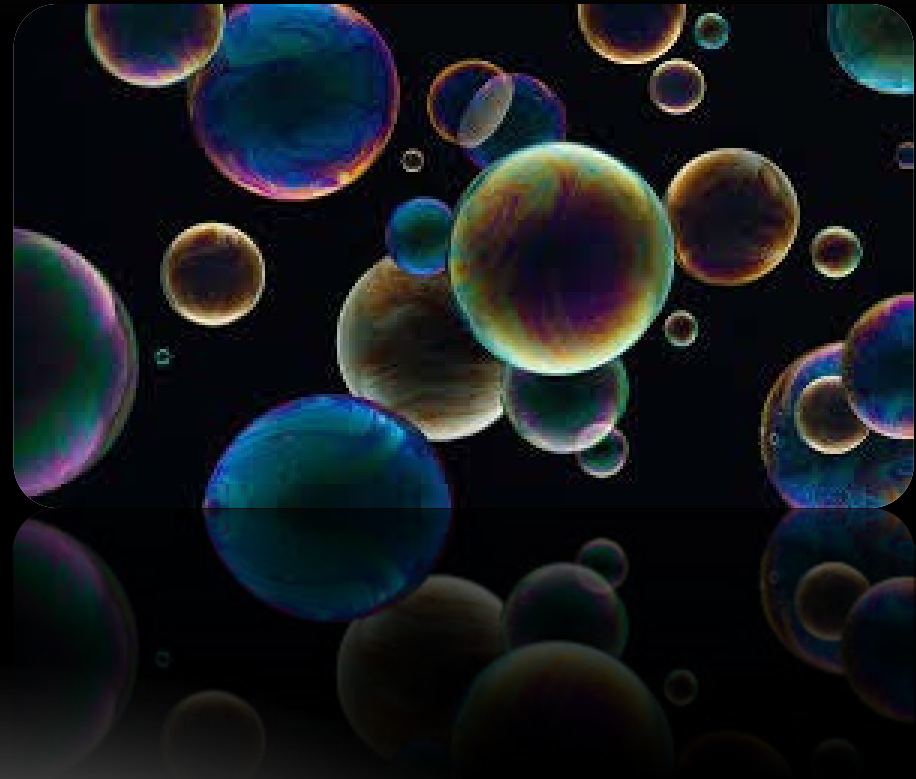


PRE-EMINENCE OF CONGREGATIONS

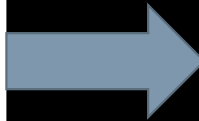
- Congregations... ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES... are the irreducible foundation of any concept of CHURCH.
 - The distinctive and necessary role of a synod structure is to inspire, equip, and extend the reach of congregational mission.
 - The sharing or granting or lending of synodical resources must be TO congregations FOR the building up of congregations.
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CONGREGATIONS CREATE NEW COMMUNITIES

- The synod is MIDWIFE not MOTHER!
- Affiliated Mission Communities are ONE model.
- Risk and imagination are inseparable from vitality



MISSION EXPANSION STRATEGIES



Attraction/ Assimilation Models Are Insufficient!

FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE

- Good Bureaucracy keeps things fair and equally accessible
- Constitutions frame our promises to each other.
- Rigid and Complicated bureaucracy kills imagination



ANTI-RACISM

- It took many generations to construct the edifice of systemic racism.
- It will take generations to dismantle and rebuild.
- Our grandchildren's world depends on our work NOW!



ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

- The world that is emerging has no interest in our petty squabbles and doctrinal disputes
 - We are not **SAVED** by our works... but we are **KNOWN** by them
 - Know who you are... and bring who you are relentlessly into respectful working relationships with those who are different
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LIVING LIFE WELL

- The Lutheran Church is expert in answering questions that no one is asking!
 - We want to answer the question, "How do I get right with God?"
 - People are asking, "How do I live my life well?"
 - To answer this question in a culture separated from the Church we must find better ways to release people into a life that integrates FAITH, WORK, AND ECONOMICS.
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THE ARCHITECTURE OF FAITH, WORK, AND ECONOMICS



- FAITH is expressed through our many arenas of WORK in the world
- WORK finds fulfillment in working with others to make an ECONOMY
- The ECONOMY is accountable to the values of FAITH

GATHERED AND SCATTERED

- Both are needed, but the balance may be changing
- We may see that vital congregations will have:
 - A smaller institutional footprint
 - Greater dispersed social impact



ALL THAT I AM, AND ALL THAT I HAVE...

