

Mission Strategy Process in Southeast Michigan *A Reflection Guide for Congregational Councils*

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

God is on a mission to reconcile the whole creation and set people free. The purpose of our lives—and of the church—is to participate in that mission in whatever way we can. That’s why the number one question we should be asking everyday, in every single situation, is: *What in the world is God up to and how can we help?*

Sometimes it’s good for a congregation—or a synod—to spend intentional time in prayer and conversation to answer that question together. That’s what the Mission Strategy Process in Southeast Michigan” is all about.

In order to give a sharper and more missional focus to our work together as a synod, our bishop and synod leaders have begun the process of listening for God’s purpose & direction. Every congregation and every member of the synod is being invited into the process of helping us wrestle with the question: *What exactly is God’s purpose for us, as the people of the Southeast Michigan Synod, and how does God want us to focus our resources for the sake of fulfilling that purpose?*

One outcome of this process will be a new purpose statement and a set of missional directions that will guide the work of our synod over the next several years.

Part of this process includes listening to what God is saying through the people of your congregation. You have asked them to fill out a survey that our synod leaders will be reading, processing, and using to shape the direction of our synod.

But you are invited and encouraged to read these surveys before you turn them in (or make copies of them and read them at when you get a chance!). As you read them, you may want to ask yourself these questions:

- What is God up to in and through our congregation?
- What are we hearing God say to us about our purpose as a congregation through these surveys?
- What are we hearing God call us, as leaders in this congregation, to do?

As a part of this revisioning process, our synod leaders are also listening to what God is saying through our neighbors. Members of the synod council and core team are interviewing community leaders. They are asking questions like:

- What are the good things happening in our community that we should know about and become a part of?
- What are the needs in our community that we should be addressing?
- How can we help you in your effort to make a positive difference in our community?

As you answer the call to be a part of God’s mission in your context, you may want to ask similar questions of the community leaders in your city, town or county. This is a good way to find out what God is up to where you live and how you can help!

*To learn more about how to be who you are and see what have for the sake of doing what matters to God, join the next Renewable Congregation Cluster.
For more information contact Jack Eggleston at revjegg@aol.com .313.821.1055*