

Task Force

The Rev. Steve Talmage
Bishop, Grand Canyon Synod, Phoenix AZ

The Rev. Charles Newman
Assistant to the Bishop for Outreach and Stewardship, Phoenix AZ

The Rev. Dr. Richard Rouse
MLA Director, Grand Canyon Synod, Sun City West, AZ

The Rev. Stewart McDonald,
Assistant Director, Grand Canyon Synod, Tucson AZ

The Rev. Paul Campbell
Director, Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, Carefree AZ

Mr. Dave Jeffery
Lay Assistant, First Evangelical L.C., Mesa

The Rev. Kate Schlechter
Pastor, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Tucson AZ

Advisors

The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson
President, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley CA

The Rev. Dr. Richard Bliese
President, Luther Seminary, St. Paul MN

The Rev. Dr. Herbert Anderson
Research Professor of Practical Theology,
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley CA

Ms. Beth Lewis
President and CEO, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis MN

Ms. Terri Elton
Adjunct Instructor, Children Youth and Family, Luther Seminary, St. Paul MN

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin,
Associate Professor of Religion,
California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA

The Rev. Kristofer Skrade
New Brand Development Editor, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis MN

Our Partners

Augsburg Fortress,
Minneapolis MN

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Thousand Oaks CA

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
Chicago IL

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St. Paul MN

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Berkeley CA

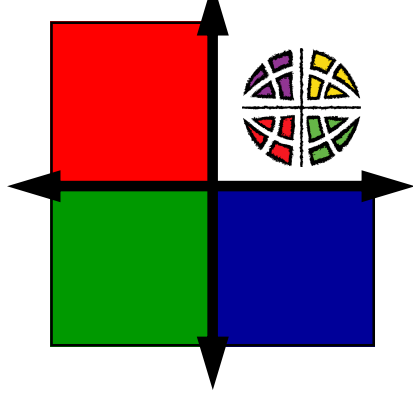
Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center,
Carefree AZ

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Minneapolis, MN/Appleton, WI



Missional Leadership Academy Class of 2011 relaxes during retreat.

Missional Leadership Academy



Grand Canyon Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

www.MissionalLeadership.net

The Mission

To help parish leaders rediscover and reclaim the vocation of the congregation as **centers for mission** and **centers for equipping the baptized for their ministry in the world**.

The Vision

Through this project and others (i.e., Turn-Around Congregations, Transformational Ministry) at least fifty percent of the congregations in the Grand Canyon Synod will be defined as *Great Commission* congregations by 2014.



Teams from congregations learning and growing together.

The Design

- Assumptions are that formation leads to learning to action and to transformation—changing the DNA of our synod congregations;
- Five to six congregations with a leadership team of four lay leaders and one or more pastors accompanied by a coach will begin the process each fall;
- The process will last about 16 months beginning with an orientation retreat and assessment of congregational vitality, followed by six one-day workshops, book studies, a parish project, team mentoring, and concluding with a retreat to evaluate the parish project, key learnings and growth;
- Each congregation will participate in a congregation-wide survey (assessment tool) to measure congregation vitality and missional readiness;
- Follow-up includes a reunion at the annual **Missional Church Conference** for sharing, support, and mentoring of congregations.
- There will be ongoing information sharing and recruitment of congregations to build a synod-wide Missional Network.

The Objectives

- To help congregations understand the need for adaptive leadership if they are to be vital and thriving centers for missional outreach in the Southwest;
- To equip pastors and lay leaders to be agents of change;
- To transform congregations from an inward focus of maintenance and chaplaincy to an outward focus of mission, outreach and evangelism;
- To invite congregations to be agents of adaptive leadership and transformation, beyond their congregations both in their community context and in the Grand Canyon Synod;
- To change and transform the DNA of the Grand Canyon Synod to become a Great Commission Synod based on missional principles.

The Numbers

- Average of six congregations per year
- Four lay leaders, the lead pastor (and associate pastor, rostered leader or intern), from each congregation with an assigned coach.
- Eight group events over 18 months
 - Two retreats
 - Six one-day workshops
- One parish project focusing on missional outreach and adaptive leadership. Also free assessment tool (parish survey) available.
- Fee of \$1500 per congregation (\$500 down and balance payable over multiple budget years).

The Definitions

Leadership

Guiding a group to engage together in a process of discerning, developing, sharing and moving into a new vision; then encouraging the group to gather all their resources in living out that vision.

Missional

Being organized outwardly around God's mission to bless and heal the world, and following God's call to act as Christ's presence in the neighborhood, in the community, and in the world as God gives resources and opportunity.

One Day Seminars:

Areas of Focus

- Vocation, Discernment and Spirituality
- Congregational Systems Thinking
- Transformational and Adaptive Leadership
- Web-based Evangelism Tools
- Achieving Financial Viability for Mission
- Your Missional Context: Unpacking the Culture



Primary Reading

- *A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation* by Richard Rouse and Van Gilder
- *Extraordinary Leadership* by Roberta Gilbert MD
- *Leadership on the Line* by Ron Heifetz and Marty Linsky
- *Transforming Church* by Kevin Ford
- *Reaching People Under 40 Will Keeping People Over 60* by Edward Hammett and James Pierce
- *Church Going Insider or Gospel Carrying Outsider* by Judith Dickhart

Above are subject to change. There are a number of other books that comprise a secondary reading list and that support the areas of focus.