

UNIT FOR EVANGELICAL OUTREACH AND CONGREGATIONAL MISSION

Purpose, Values and Goals in the Context of the ELCA's Work

- ELCA Mission Statement: “Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world.”

- Five Strategic Directions:
 - Support congregations in their call to be faithful, welcoming and generous, sharing the mind of Christ;
 - Assist members, congregations, synods, and institutions and agencies of this church grow in evangelical outreach
 - Step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God's love for all that God has created;
 - Deepen and extend our global, ecumenical and interfaith relationships for the sake of God's mission;
 - Assist this church to bring forth and support faithful, wise and courageous leaders whose vocations serve God's mission in a pluralistic world.

- ELCA Commitments
 - Encourage, welcome and depend upon the lively and creative exchange of resources and ideas throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
 - Recognize and encourage the vital contributions and deepening relationship with institutions and agencies of this church and with Lutheran, ecumenical, and interfaith partners;
 - Confront the scandalous realities of racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual, physical, and class barriers that often manifest themselves in exclusion, poverty, hunger, and violence; and
 - Pursue ardently the ELCA's commitment to becoming more diverse, multicultural, and multi-generational in an ever-changing and increasingly pluralistic context, with special focus on full inclusion in this church of youth, young adults, and people of color and whose primary language is other than English.

- Unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM) Purpose Statement: To engage leaders in the formation of evangelizing congregations that make disciples for Jesus Christ and equip people to use their gifts for God's reign in the church and in the world.

- This unit will value:
 - **Spirit-led, biblical, and prayerful grounding**: God is leading us and calls us to be intentional about discerning how best to follow.
 - **Visionary and skilled leadership**: Spirit-led lay and clergy leadership sees and articulates facets of God's future and effectively and creatively inspires and equips people to move toward it.

- **Abundant, asset based and generous living:** God provides everything we need to live out our callings and entrusts us to be faithful stewards of our gifts to further the work of the church.
- **Participatory and contextual decision making:** Decisions are best made with insights and involvement that includes people closest to the point of implementation.
- **Holistic, Evangelical Ministry:** Faithful ministry is concerned with all of life and is able to balance sharing the good news, being prophetic for the sake of God's justice, and acting to embody God's will as expressed in Jesus Christ.
- **Multicultural, inclusive and mutual hospitality:** Missional integrity crosses racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, generational and other boundaries with heartfelt respect - embracing unity without uniformity.
- **Growing and multiplying ministries:** Healthy ministry is a means from which individuals, leaders and communities reproduce faithful ministry among others.
- **Communal and individual transformation:** Discipleship and faith formation changes the lives of people of all ages, congregations and communities so they actively participate in God's mission in the world.
- **Transparent and timely communication:** Shared information, relationships and the telling of stories are essential to broad based and effective ministry.
- **Shared networks and resources:** God's blessings for mission are to be shared with others to maximize effectiveness within all expressions of the church.

■ EOCM Internal Work Values:

- Common language
- Intentional communication
- Initiative
- Integrity, trust and mutual accountability
- Teamwork
- Integrated and coordinated strategies
- Sufficient system infrastructure
- Joyful and prayerful community environment
- Respecting work style and space
- Hard work balanced with sabbath

Goals:

In working with our churchwide, synod, congregation, ethnic community, and other partners in ministry, EOCM will:

- foster and enhance a culture of discipleship* within the ELCA
- equip leaders who multiply themselves
- build capacity to start new and renew congregations that are healthy* and missional* in a diverse and multicultural context.

***Definitions within the Context of this Strategic Plan:**

Evangelizing Congregations – An evangelizing congregation is one in which the members embody God’s call for them in their daily lives and invite others to come and experience community in Jesus Christ.

Discipleship – “Discipleship” is being called to walk with Christ, equipped to live like Christ, and sent by Christ to love and serve others in the world.

Healthy and Missional Congregations – “Healthy” is the condition of a person or system that describes its capacity to act for good. “Missional” is the attitude of mind-set of a person or system that describes its desire to act and carry out God’s will.