

ELCA Strategic Planning Evangelical Outreach Roundtable Report

Roundtable dates: October 10-11, 2003
Location: Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL
Co-conveners: Dick Magnus and Liza Canino
Participants: Female 13, Male 16, Persons of color 13,
Young adults 6

Outcome 1 (Evangelical Witness)

By 2012, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are spiritually committed and utilize their assets to give witness to Jesus Christ and share their personal faith story.

Measurement Indicators

- ❖ By 2005, churchwide, synods, & congregations (ELCA) identify, mobilize, and commission ____ evangelical teachers.
- ❖ By 2008, churchwide, synods, & congregations (ELCA) identify, mobilize, and commission ____ evangelical teachers.
- ❖ By 2012, churchwide, synods, & congregations (ELCA) identify, mobilize, and commission ____ evangelical teachers.
- ❖ In the benchmark years 90% of the evangelical teachers are engaged in each of the five key behaviors (see strategy).
- ❖ By 2012, 50% of ELCA members report they have talked to an unchurched person about Jesus Christ and extended an invitation.
- ❖ From 2005 to 2012 the ELCA will have an increase of 10% per year in the number of adult baptisms and number of persons joining through affirmation of faith.
- ❖ From 2005 to 2012 the ELCA will have an increase of 10% per year in the number of persons participating in Bible study and/or prayer ministry.

Strategies

Through collaboration among the churchwide office, synods, and congregations the ELCA will identify, mobilize, mentor, and use evangelical teachers who will:

1. Model evangelical behavior.
2. Help ELCA members identify their assets and put them to use.
3. Instruct people in the Jesus Story.
4. Enable ELCA members to witness to Jesus Christ in everyday life.
5. Engage people in a process of spiritual discovery and transformation.

Outcome 2 (Church Planting) [NOTE: TEAM STILL WORKING ON THESE]

Long-term Outcome

By 2012, congregations, synods, and churchwide share the responsibility of starting and renewing congregations.

Short-term Outcome

By 2007, 50% of all new ministry starts will be among people of color so that ELCA congregations will reflect their various contexts.

Short-term Outcome

By 2007, the ELCA has a critical mass of staff in synodical and churchwide positions who have passion, expertise, and experience in starting and renewing congregations to support the increased numbers and variety of new and renewing congregations.

Outcome 3 (Anti-Racism, Multicultural)

The ELCA will be a church that nurtures the reproduction of evangelical, servant congregations that reflect the diversity of their communities.

Measurement Indicators

- ❖ *By [2012] 50% of all new ministry starts will be among people of color so that ELCA congregations will reflect their various contexts.*
- ❖ By 2008, identify, recruit, train, equip and 250% more ethnic-specific leaders in each ethnic specific community who can lead the ministry of the church so that the diverse membership and spirituality of this church will grow.
- ❖ By 2005 each ethnic association will identify there will be language and culture specific resources for worship, evangelism, stewardship, Christian education, etc. to support ethnic specific ministries.

Strategies

This is a financial strategy.

1. By 2012, every synod will increase congregational mission partners by 50%. This is a strategy (using a variety of partnerships) to support ethnic-specific ministries.
2. By 2007, every synod will engage in ethnic-specific ministries.

Outcome 4 (Peace and Justice)

Recognizing that we meet Christ in community, by 2012, the ELCA will demonstrate an increasing commitment to evangelical outreach among people living in poverty.

Measurement Indicators

- ❖ Fifty percent (50%) of new starts are in communities of poverty as identified by the ELCA.
- ❖ Every decision made at all levels of the ELCA will include people living in poverty.
- ❖ Each seminary will have a teaching site in a community of poverty.
- ❖ Every seminary will offer a class in faith-based community organizing.
- ❖ Fifty percent (50%) of seminary grads will have had this course.
- ❖ Every seminary offers Spanish.

Outcome 5 (Peace and Justice)

By 2012, recognizing that we meet Christ in community, we, the ELCA will, deepen our commitment to evangelical outreach by partnering with sexual minority communities (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender).

Measurement Indicators

- ❖ Augsburg-Fortress confirmation curriculum that unites faith and sexuality.
- ❖ Congregations will offer adult education on faith and sexuality.
- ❖ There will be synod-wide strategies for providing pastoral care in light of the Churchwide Assembly decisions of 2005 and 2007.
- ❖ Models of congregations dealing healthfully with sexuality will be lifted up by synod bishops.
- ❖ Bishops will encourage congregations to engage sexual study materials, including “Journey Together Faithfully” and new materials.
- ❖ Required pastoral care courses at every seminary will include component on sexuality and ministry with sexual minority people.
- ❖ Nationally, continuing education opportunities will be offered for pastors, youth directors, and others in pastoral care related to sexuality and ministry with sexual minority people.
- ❖ ELCA seminaries will be welcoming places to train sexual minority clergy.
- ❖ ELCA colleges and Lutheran Campus Ministries will be places of healthy conversation around issues of faith and sexuality.
- ❖ Synodical and national youth and young adult gatherings will be places of healthy conversation around issues of faith and sexuality.
- ❖ One staff position at the churchwide offices in the area of youth will be a sexual minority.

Outcome 6 (Youth and Young Adults)

Long-term Outcome

By 2012, youth and young adults will report that they are valued members of a faith community.

Short-term Outcome

By 2005, faith communities will report increased participation and contributions by youth and young adults.

Measurement Indicators

- ❖ By 2005, the ELCA Youth Ministry Network will double its active membership, reflecting increased diversity and inclusivity.
- ❖ By 2008, all eight ELCA seminaries will provide required training for this church's leaders in ministry with the younger generations.
- ❖ By 2012, all synods of the ELCA will have devoted at least one synod assembly plenary to youth and at least one plenary to young adults, focused on raising awareness about the value of youth and young adults and their ministry, and including the leadership of youth and young adults.

Strategies

1. Churchwide will invest in the lives of the young (first 1/3 of life) by investing in ministries that empower evangelical witness and discipleship, specifically outdoor ministries (Bible camps), campus ministries, and Christian education/nurture.
2. Churchwide will increase support of and funding to the ELCA Youth Ministry Network, particularly in helping it become more diverse and multicultural.
3. Churchwide will strongly encourage the synods of the ELCA to increase awareness about the importance of ministry with youth and young adults.