

“Doing What Matters”

“The Future Starts Now”

Materials:

- a copy of “The Future Starts Now”
- “The Renewable Organization Workbook for Faith-Based Groups”

Intro:

This winter, two congregations in the New England Synod began their own “Doing What Matters” process by offering a study that drew on these resources, and found that it was helpful in beginning to make the shift from a “consumable” model to “renewable” ways of working and doing ministry together. The strength of these resources lies in the fact that they are extremely adaptable to all kinds of congregational contexts. The nature of this study readily lends itself to visioning, establishing purpose and principles for the congregation, and opening our minds to a new way of doing ministry in our current context. The simplicity of the study is a strength as it better equips individuals and congregations to: Be Who You Are, See What You Have, and Do What Matters!

Possibilities for Using These Resources: Congregations who want to spend more time thinking about the future and doing what matters, may use these resources to develop and implement an extended study. Here are some possibilities:

Weekly Bible Study (6-9 Sessions)

Sermon Series and Study (5 weeks)

Church Council Retreat (1-2 day event)

Coaching:

The New England Synod is blessed to have a group of trained coaches who are available to help your congregation implement these resources. Coaches can help to develop a plan for presenting, planning, and publicizing this process in your congregation. This works best when a “Doing What Matters” team is established who can then work with coach, in person, or on the phone/skype to walk alongside them as the process unfolds. Having a coach in place can help to keep the process on track, answer questions as they arise, and check in along the way to offer support and feedback.

Developing a Team:

We have found that these materials work best when a team of interested people are recruited and empowered to plan and implement the study, publicity, and conversation. With that in mind, it may be helpful to recruit 3-5 people who will begin to read through “The Future Starts Now” as well as the workbook. From there, the team is free to adapt these resources in ways that will best fit the local congregational context.

Steps in the Process:

1. Recruiting/Educating
2. Awareness/Publicizing
3. Implementation
4. Evaluation
5. Next Steps

Weekly Bible Study- 6-9 sessions

Session 1: God's Mission

What is God's dream for the world? (Acts 2:1-21)

Session 2: Our Context

The Consumable Approach and the "fill in the blank" trap

Session 3: A Critical Shift

Jesus--A Renewable Approach to life and work (Matthew 4:12-23)

Sessions 4&5: Be Who You Are

The Seven Renewable Practices

Sessions 6&7: See What You Have

Seeing things in a new way (Matthew 6:25-34)

Introducing the PAWN Process (Your Purpose and the Assets, Wows, and Needs of your neighbors...and your Assets, Wows, and Needs too!)

Sessions 8&9: Do What Matters

Doing what matters (Acts 1:6-8)

The 4-D Cycle: Discover, Decide, Do, Debrief