

Transformational Ministry

Transformational Ministry is a covenant-based process through which congregations commit themselves to living out God's mission in their place. It requires the congregation to affirm their desire to "be different" as the Body of Christ in its community. It teaches a transformational process of together discerning, planning, taking action and evaluating those actions for the sake of greater congregational health and God's calling.

Transformed Congregations

- ☞ Are spiritually vital, and rooted in Bible study, discussion, prayer and preaching.
- ☞ Identify as a group the church's purpose in living out God's mission.
- ☞ Catalyze transformation from membership to discipleship.
- ☞ Facilitate group decision-making with the help of a coach.
- ☞ Equip and encourage the God-given gifts gathered in the community.



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Natural Church Development

Natural Church Development starts with a self-assessment tool for congregations and issues into a transforming process able to facilitate healthy change for the sake of the congregation's ministry and mission. It helps congregations assess how they are doing, formulate a plan and implement that plan. It insists on discerning how God is calling a congregation into its next chapter of ministry and mission.



Natural Church Development Congregations

- ☞ Feel the Spirit at work renewing and freeing them to be God's people in their place.
- ☞ Discover a language to describe what a healthy church looks like as they learn about the eight quality characteristics.
- ☞ Benefit from the guidance of a coach who accompanies them in the process.
- ☞ Find that God has already gathered the gifts necessary for the tasks to which God is calling them.

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New England Synod Visioning Toolkit

The New England Synod Visioning Toolkit is a wonderful compilation of resources for doing a visioning process in your congregation. It is also a wonderful place to find single exercises to help groups listen for God, listen to their congregation and listen to the communities in which God has rooted them for mission. Coaching assistance is available to help congregations "get healthier" for the sake of their witness.

Visioning Congregations

- ☞ Believe God speaks to us and calls us by the Spirit to be the people of God in particular ways at particular times in and through our congregations.
- ☞ Seek to listen for God by listening to the Bible, to each other and to the needs, fears, concerns and hopes of those not yet in their pews.
- ☞ Get clarity about who they believe God is calling them to be—and they act on it.

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*"I planted, Apollos watered,
but God gave the growth."*

1 Cor. 3:6



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Purpose and Principles Process

The development of purpose statements and guiding principles helps congregations focus on their particular part of God's work. It provides a guide for decision-making that brings welcome clarity and accountability as they are incorporated into the life of the church.

Purposeful Congregations

- ☞ Seek God's purpose for the congregation.
- ☞ Understand that "the church needs the world if it is to be the church (Dave Daubert, Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation)."

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Asset Mapping

Asset mapping helps your congregation "see the glass as half full"—see that God has already given you the resources needed for the task! Asset mapping simply gets you thinking creatively about what you *have* and about linking those assets in new ways.

Asset Mapping Congregations

- ☞ Are tired of focusing on what they don't have and are ready to think differently about what they already do have.
- ☞ Focus on one or two initiatives using the gifts God has gathered for the mission and ministry of God's people.

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Tools for Congregational Health

Transformational Ministry

Natural Church Development

Visioning Toolkit

Purpose & Principle Process

Asset Mapping