



“Connecting with Congregations...Equipping Leaders for Mission”

**Rev. Dr. Lane R. Seitz, President
Minnesota South District
2007**





Pastoral Vacancies (April 24, 2007)

- Synod-wide
 - 371 calling vacancies
 - 259 calling a sole pastor
 - 55 calling a senior pastor
 - 57 calling an assistant/associate pastor
 - 350 non-calling vacancies
 - 721 total pastoral vacancies





Pastoral Vacancies

(continued)

- Minnesota South District
 - 13 calling congregations
 - 7 calling a sole pastor
 - 3 calling a senior pastor
 - 3 calling an assistant/
associate pastor





Pastoral Vacancies

(continued)

- Minnesota South District
 - 2001 = 45 calling vacancies
 - 2007 = 12-15 calling vacancies
- The reason?
- September 11, 2001





Pastoral Vacancies

(continued)

- The future
 - 2006-2015 we will need 300-350 new pastors each year to maintain current level
 - Each year 200 pastors retire
 - Each year 100 choose to leave the ministry
 - 1/3rd because of other ministry opportunities
 - 1/3rd because of conflict or stress
 - 1/3rd for other reasons





Pastoral Vacancies

(continued)

- 2007
 - 6,150 congregations
 - 6,000 pastors
- 2017
 - 8,150 congregations
 - 2,200 pastors





What Does This Mean?

- Need to recruit good men to become pastors TODAY
- Need to be open to new (and old) ways of serving congregations
- Need to consider alternate routes to ordination





Funding the Mission

- Synod's fiscal challenge
 - The national budget is supported 75% by restricted dollars and 25% unrestricted dollars
 - **Unrestricted** income continues to plummet!
 - Core services mandated by bylaws and convention action in jeopardy of not being funded





Funding the Mission

(continued)

\$1,400,000,000 (Income of 6,150 congregations)

\$70,000,000 (Income of 35 LCMS Districts)

\$85,000,000 (Synod's total annual income)

\$20,000,000 (Unrestricted gifts from Districts to Synod) (9.8% to 50%) **(MNS is at 50%)**

\$65,000,000 (Synod's restricted income)





Funding the Mission

(continued)

- Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission
 - Task Force Report available
 - 11 recommendations
- 2007 Convention will consider report
- National Fiscal Conference held February 8-10, 2007





Funding the Mission

(continued)

- Stewardship Renaissance at the congregational level
- Increased support needed from Districts, including MNS
- Other recommendations





2007 Theological Conference

- September 29, 2007
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
North Mankato, MN
- Topic - Holy Communion theology
and practice





2004 Synod Convention

- Res. 1-01A
- Res. 1-02 (Mission outpost attitude)
- Res. 1-03
- Res. 1-04
- Res. 1-05A (*Ablaze!* national goals)





Ablaze! Goals

- Reach 100 million unreached and uncommitted people with the Gospel by 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
 - 50 million in the U.S.
 - 50 million worldwide





Ablaze! Goals

- Start 5,000 new congregations
 - 2,000 in the U.S.
 - 3,000 worldwide
- Revitalize 2,000 congregations in the U.S.





MNS *Ablaze!*

- 1,000,000 new people
 - Caucasian
 - Ethnic groups
- Small towns and rural areas have mission potential
- Our Lutheran schools have great mission potential!





MNS *Ablaze!*

- Your congregation is a mission outpost!
- You are a witness
- John 9:4

Jesus said, "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."

