

July 15, 2010

Five Rivers District Pastors and DSAs,

Thank you for your ministry in the Five Rivers District. Each fall you and your Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (S/PPRC) are asked to assess your ministry. Last year, you were encouraged to set specific, measurable goals, relevant to the goals of the conference, for your ministry. As we continue to work to revitalize our congregations, we hope you will build on this foundation. As you discuss the progress on the 2009 goals, remember that the focus should be on *what the congregation and the pastor have done* to move toward those goals. Failure to reach the desired outcome does not mean the pastor and the congregation have failed, but it may mean that you need to try different strategies to reach the goal.

In his annual address to the conference, Bishop Scott Jones emphasized that everything we do is for mission, God's mission. We need to stay focused on the areas that we have identified to help us accomplish God's mission in the Kansas East Conference. Sometimes we will be called to embark on a ministry or project that makes us question, where we are going or what we are doing. Through our faith in Christ we can trust that God is in the midst of our ministry or project and is leading us to reach the souls Christ died for. We need to continue to stay focused and assess our four areas of focus to know if the strategies that we have identified and put in place are working. The areas of focus are:

1. *Invite people to church - to revitalize and to plant 10 new churches by 2012.*
2. *Increase worship attendance - to result in increased professions of faith.*
3. *Improve apportionment payout by 2% per year - to reach 100%.*
4. *Increase leadership development through ABIDE, Incubator and Leadership and Faith Transforming Communities processes.*

This year the primary focus at charge conferences will be upon your church/charge's ministry plans to consider these areas of focus as they relate to your church or ministry's mission statement and the conference mission statement:

*To connect and empower people and churches  
In living out the Gospel's call  
to invite, nurture, equip and send forth disciples of Jesus Christ.*

I suggest you consider witnessing how your church is living out their ministry in the following six areas of focus:

1. Growing passionate worship
2. Radical faith sharing and hospitality that reaches new generations of disciples
3. Intentionally forming and growing disciples
4. Engaging disciples in risk-taking mission
5. Extravagant generosity and healthy stewardship
6. Developing principled leaders to lead the church

We, as your appointive cabinet, are not interested in simply having you fill out forms; we are interested in your response to Christ's call to be the church in your settings for ministry! The vehicle for communicating this is the Ministry Goals Report.

Enclosed in this packet are forms for your assessment work in partnership with your committee. These forms may also be downloaded from our conference website. Your Staff/Pastor-Parish Committee has received a similar assessment form as well as the other forms enclosed in this mailing. We also included some "Points of Reflection" to guide your thinking as you work together.

1. 2010-2011 CLERGY SELF-ASSESSMENT OF PASTORAL PRACTICES- **Do NOT complete if you were newly appointed July 1, 2010.** Use this form to assess your own ministry practices. Use the "What is Excellence" document to assist with completing this form.
2. 2010-2011 MINISTRY GOALS REPORT-**All churches/charges complete this form.** Use this report to name the goals you will be creating for your congregation and your ministry. Remember to complete this form in consultation with your S/PPRC and submit one consolidated report.
3. PASTOR-S/PPRC COVENANT-**Complete only if your Pastor has arrived since July 1, 2009.** This is not just a form; it is a healthy act of partnership meant to help guide you through a discussion with your committee to create a relational covenant. If you previously created a covenant and have changes, please send a copy to the District Office by September 15.
4. PASTOR'S CONTINUING EDUCATION GUIDE  
Our Revitalization Initiative asks Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committees to work together with their clergy to create a three-year continuing education plan. These guidelines are enclosed as a resource to assist you in this process. If your pastor has an existing plan you do not need to complete this form but may want to review the plan that is currently in place. A list of upcoming continuing education opportunities was handed out at Clergy session of annual conference and is available on the district website.
5. WHAT IS EXCELLENCE?  
This document attempts to enumerate some of the specific behaviors that lead to excellence in each area of practice. Realizing that no one achieves excellence in every area, you may wish to use these criteria as well to guide your discussion.

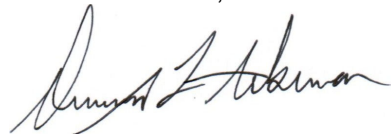
Each year we take the feedback we have received about the process and re-evaluate the tools we are using. For this reason the Area Cabinet and I have tried to shorten some of the reports while keeping the "main" thing the "main" thing: mission and ministry.

These forms are due back in the district office after the dialogue with the S/PPRC no later than **September 15.**

I am excited about how the assessment and ministry goal setting process can help in strengthening the mutual ministries of congregations and pastors. Be assured the Appointive Cabinet is committed to helping us all seek to grow and be spiritually alive Churches of Jesus Christ.

Please contact me if you have questions or comments. I will be praying for your partnership work with your Church (es).

Grace and Peace,



Five Rivers District Superintendent