



# TCN

## TRANSFORMING CHURCHES NETWORK

For a variety of reasons, many of our Eastern District congregations are faced with declining membership and resources. When this happens, the natural tendency is to focus on survival issues, and the Great Commission suffers. The Mission Revitalization Process helps congregations to turn this inward focus outward through the Transforming Congregations Network. Attitudinal changes that come with a renewed sense of mission along with new members who have come to faith in Jesus through the personal witnessing are the keys to turning around congregations that are plateaued and declining in membership.

The Transforming Congregations Network (TCN) involves congregational consultations with nationally trained and equipped facilitators, learning communities for pastors and lay people and evangelistic outreach initiatives where all member of the congregation work together to renew the outreach focus of their church.

Part of the revitalization process includes a congregational consultation. The Transforming Congregations Network, in cooperation with LCMS World Mission has developed a process to train consultants who will lead this phase of congregational transformation. The weekend consultation will result in prescriptions aimed at creating behaviors consistent with outreach and renewal.

In order to encourage follow up on these prescriptions, the consultation team will arrange monthly coaching appointments with the pastor and quarterly meetings with the leaders of the congregation.

An important component of this process is the Learning Community. Learning Communities are comprised of pastors who have a desire to see outreach become the primary value of each parish and a willingness to make a significant commitment to the revitalization process. Learning Community Clusters meet every 4-6 weeks for personal spiritual growth (heart), professional growth (head), and specific practical assignments (hands).

To date, 127 LCMS congregations throughout the nation have begun the Transforming Congregations process, including six congregations in the Eastern District.

For more information on the Mission Revitalization Process contact the Eastern District office via phone at 1.716.634.5111 extension 19, or email Rev. David Bernard at [RevDBer@frontiernet.net](mailto:RevDBer@frontiernet.net) or visit the Transforming Churches Network portal at <http://portal.revitalization-lcms.com>.