

B-C-Do Task Group Report

Annual Meeting – January 29, 2012

At last year's Annual Meeting there was a lot of discussion about developing a strategic plan for capital improvements as well as clarifying what mission priorities should be addressed in such a plan. As the Congregation Council began its work there was a lot of discussion about what direction we should take to approach the tasks outlined by resolutions adopted at the Annual Meeting.

In the midst of this discussion Pastor Mike indicated that the New Jersey Synod Council had recently entered an agreement with **a.r.e.** (A Renewal Enterprise, Inc.) to provide consulting services to the N.J. Synod. Pastor had been involved in some of the early opportunities to work with the **a.r.e.** team Dave Daubert, Kelly Fryer and Tana Kjos and suggested that their methods might help give us a framework out of which we could better address the bigger issues of developing a strategic plan. Pastor participated in a Ministerium Day presentation for the N.J. Synod's rostered leaders with the **a.r.e.** team. In February four Council Members: Mark Bensel, Lisa Gess, Gina Krumanocker and Parker Smith, along with Pastor Mike, participated in an **a.r.e.** track at the N.J. Synod's Conference on Congregational Ministries in March. This group became the B-C-Do Task Group.

The Conference on Congregational Ministries seminar pointed us in the direction of creating a set of core values and an umbrella strategy that would serve as the backdrop and reference point for evaluating priorities for mission and expressions of ministry. The Task Group began the process of becoming further educated using **a.r.e.** publications and invited Pastor Tracie Bartholomew, Assistant to Bishop Riley to serve as our local coach in this conversation. The work of the Task Group led to our B-C-Do lunch conversation with Pastor Bartholomew on Sunday, October 23.

During the lunch discussion some opportunities were provided for participants to share insights about the activities of ministry that are meaningful and exciting; descriptions about our life in community and mission; and, details about what we, as individuals, are passionate about, good at and willing to share. Opportunities for those unable to attend the luncheon were provided over the course of several weeks to share their thoughts through response sheets. The Task Group has been working on compiling this material and will be working with Pastor Tracie to bring out of this data language and directions that will form to the formation of the first draft of a set of core values and an umbrella strategy. A meeting with Pastor Tracie is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31. This draft material will be shared with the Council and the Congregation. Eventually, the Congregation Council will call a special meeting of the Congregation to adopt a set of core values and an umbrella strategy. The Task Group hopes this task will be completed by late Spring.

B-C-Do Collation

Assumption:

God has given us what we need in order to do what matters!

1. The Most exciting thing this congregation does (now or ever)
 - Food pantry (9)
 - i. Helps a lot of people, it filled a need, a way of sharing without preaching and judging
 - ii. Visible (need), tangible, results are visible in community, matters to God
 - iii. Needed in today's conditions
 - iv. Serves entire community
 - v. Making sure no one goes hungry (relates also to Food Collection)
 - vi. Hunger – a national crisis that St. Michael's has responded to
 - Food Collection (3) – Holiday/Thanksgiving/Food Pantry
 - IHOC (3)
 - Back Packs (2)
 - Christus Support (2)
 - Hospitality center (2)
 - Garden (2)
 - Adult Education
 - Caring
 - Christus Academy Support
 - Conversational Workshops
 - Corn Roast
 - Establishing St. Michael's
 - i. No Lutheran Church in area
 - Fellowship
 - Helping people in need
 - i. The need is evident and visible
 - Mission Support
 - Musical Programming
 - Opening building to community organizations (Narcotics Anonymous, Greater Kingston Civic Association)
 - Social Ministry
 - Like that the congregation looks outside its doors [Caution: worry that the emphasis on outreach leaves us open to neglecting the work and effort needed to equip ourselves to go out into the community.]
 - Sunday School (Past – bigger)
 - Worship on Sunday
 - Youth Gatherings – ELCA National
 - Youth Program (Past)
2. Three words I would use to describe our congregation:
 - Caring (8)
 - Friendly (7)
 - Compassionate (3)
 - Generous (3)
 - Welcoming (3)
 - Active (involved) (2)
 - Loving (2)
 - Sharing (2)
 - Aging
 - Committed
 - Devout
 - Diverse
 - Faithful
 - Fun
 - Helpful
 - Inclusive
 - Liturgical
 - Loyal
 - Mature
 - Prayerful
 - Receptive
 - Risk Adverse
 - Run a tight ship
 - Serving
 - Talented

- Thirsty for knowledge (Bible Study)
 - Warm
3. The best thing I have ever participated in with this congregation in the last year...
- Corn Roast (4)
 - Bible Study (3)
 - Choir (2)
 - Food Pantry (2)
 - I.H.O.C. (preparing food for hospitality guests) (2)
 - Prayer Breakfast (2)
 - Altar Guild
 - B-C-Do Luncheon
 - Book Club
 - Christmas Party
 - Confirmation Program
 - Confirmation Sunday
 - Congregational Activities
 - Dakota Road Concert
 - Decorating the church at Christmas
 - Handbell Choir
 - Jazz & Joe
 - Property Clean-up
 - Rally Day
 - Sparetimers
 - Sr. High Sunday School
 - Vegetable Garden
 - Welcome Center
 - Worship (being in church)
 - Worship – Easter
 - Worship - Good Friday Presentations
 - Worship - Maundy Thursday Drama
4. A ministry we have that surprises me:
- Christus Partnership (3)
 - Food Bank (2)
 - Bosnia Servant Trip
 - Having the children in church
 - I.H.O. C.
 - Martha Circle
 - Nothing!
 - Opening of the building and welcoming outside groups
 - Pastor's Discretionary Fund (scope of it)
 - Pastor's Outreach to College Students
5. One area of need in our community that we could address:
- Congregational participation during worship
 - Clothing program (2)
 - Inviting un-churched people (2)
 - Advocacy
 - Affordable Day Care
 - Be more open to the public
 - Children's needs in our own community
 - Outreach to Spanish Speaking and Asian Community
 - None – there is no need
 - Seniors basic needs (food & shelter)
 - Transportation
 - Young families searching for a church
 - Visitation & assisting the elderly & shut-in
 - Youthful indifference & alienation
6. My neighbors would join our efforts if:
- They were encouraged to come
 - Invited to see what we do
 - They were of our faith & values
 - They believed their attendance would make a difference in their lives
 - They knew about it, and join our efforts for social good
 - They had an incentive to come
 - They could make it on a regular basis
7. I am personally excited about:
- Bible Studies
 - Choir
 - Everything
 - Furthering our mission in our community, country and world
 - Grandchildren getting involved
 - I.H.O.C. Program
 - Jazz Night
 - Music Ministry – Choir Programs
 - Our commitment to the elderly in our congregation and Cadbury
 - Staff – Pastor & Minister of Music
 - Sunday Services

Survey Results

Be who you are, See what you have, Do what matters to God

Things I am good at:

• Listening	17
• Organization/planning, leadership, problem solving	31
• Cooking / baking, food shopping	18
• Music	8
• Friendship, love, helping, encouragement, patience	46
• Family, parenting, teaching, youth support	15
• Technical, career skills	28
• Hobbies, crafts, sports, gardening	31
• Going to church	1
• Saving	1
• Could not read survey response	<u>1</u>
Total	197

Things I am passionate about:

• My family	60
• Cooking / food / hunger issues	18
• Friendship, love, helping, peace, fun	45
• Technical, careers	17
• Faith	15
• Hobbies, crafts, sports, gardening, reading	57
• Building/maintaining character	9
• Teaching	7
• Health, safety	8
• Animals	7
• Community, volunteer organizations	8
• Music	8
• Organization, planning, leadership	5
• Could not read survey response	<u>3</u>
Total	267

Things I am willing to share:

• Time	64
• Money, financial or other resources	44
• Experiences/thoughts/advice	26
• Technical, career skills or work	14
• Friendship, love, encouragement, patience	43
• Food / cooking	23
• Teaching, youth support	4
• Hobbies, sports, gardening	10
• Transportation	4
• Faith / church	3
• Music	<u>3</u>
Total	238