

Strategic Plan for New Church Starts

VISION

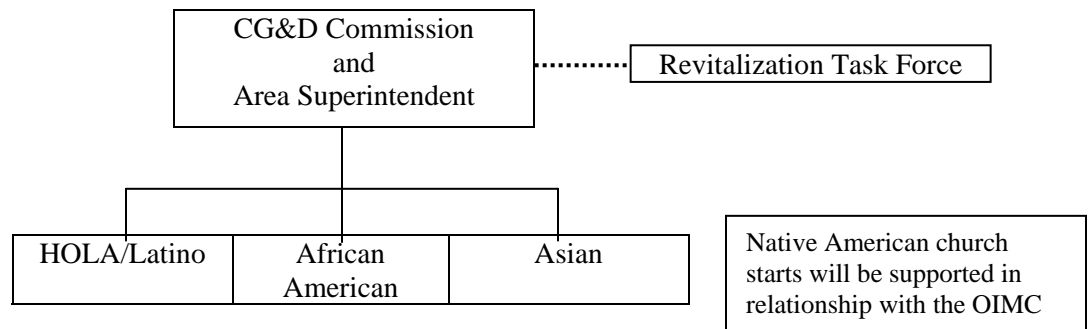
Within the next five years there will be an environment in the Kansas East Conference/Kansas Area in which every United Methodist Church will desire to participate in the establishment of new United Methodist Churches. Sufficient spiritual, financial, and human resources will become available to incorporate every potential disciple to whom the Lord leads us.

MISSION

Led by the Holy Spirit, we will establish new United Methodist Churches by refocusing our attention from purchasing land to developing leadership through:

- Identifying, assessing and training potential new church start pastors (NCSP)
- Identifying key locations throughout the conference where there is potential for self-supporting new congregations
- Identifying key locations throughout the conference where there is potential for new mission fellowships
- Establishing benchmarks for each situation that will be used to monitor the progress of that new church start before it begins, including benchmarks for CG&D projects that continue.
- Establishing policies for the distribution of funds to new church starts which would include sufficient funds for pastoral leadership and program.
- Establishing guidelines for loans and grants from CG&D for the purchase of property or first construction.
- Establishing guidelines for selection, training, and mentoring of parent churches that start new congregations.
- Identifying, assessing and training subsequent pastors of new church starts.

Structure



Leadership

Potential new church start pastors will be identified each year by the bishop, appointive cabinet, and CG&D to participate in such programs as the following:

- Arkansas Conference New Church Leadership Institute training
- Establish a collegial relationship between CG&D and the bishop and appointive cabinet
- On-site visits to our newest church starts in Kansas and other conferences
- School of Congregational Development (Sponsored by GBoD)
- Boot Camp (Sponsored by North Georgia Conference)
- Fitzgerald Pastors (Sponsored by GBoD)

A system for coaching new start pastors, new start congregations and parent congregations will be designed.

Revenue Sources

Capital Campaign with the goal of raising \$5 million:

- \$3 million for leadership development and new church start-up expenses
- \$2 million to the Pioneer Fund for land acquisition

Bishop's Council

- Sustain one ministry at a time with multi-year commitments of \$1000 or more per year from individuals.
- Members are kept informed of how the project is proceeding and how contributions are expended.
- An annual event will be held for council members to gather with the bishop

Conference Budget & Current Asset Management

- Area Superintendent and administrative assistant's compensation package
- New start churches are expected to pay apportionments when they launch
- Administrative expenses
- Evaluate current loans and possible reconfiguration
- Develop strategy for sale of land and use of the proceeds

Parent Churches

Church Foundations

Public Foundations

Move 2000 Member Club to the Revitalization Task Force.

Percept, Inc. Research

In the past 10 years, population in the Kansas East Conference has grown by 174,593 (12.9%). The nation's population grew by 17.8% during the same time.

The largest area of growth was Johnson County (27%).

In the Kansas East Conference 12.2% of the population claims to be Methodist. Those who have no religious preference but are interested comprise 3.7% of the population. Those who are not interested in religion comprise 9.8% of the population.

In the 20 years from 1984 to 2004, the worship attendance in the Kansas East Conference increased from 31,141 to 32,815, the highest it has been since 1976 (5%), and membership decreased from 87,633 to 75,788 (13.5%).

Addendum for Information

Completing the Strategic Plan

Beginning in September of 2005 The Commission on Congregational Growth and Development began to make dramatic policy shifts. These shifts are evident in the above summary statement. Below we outline the steps that we will take to complete our strategic plan.

Our challenges

Leadership Emphasis: This is the most dramatic change in our approach to New Church Development. A South Central Jurisdictional program for identifying, training, assessing and coaching potential new church pastors is in place. This will eventually include training indigenous coaches, training pastors and congregations that choose to be parent congregations and their staff. The first group of pastors began the training process in January of 2006. Subsequent sessions will be held in October of 2006 and April of 2007. New series begin each January.

New Area Leadership:

July 2006: Kent Melcher becomes the Area Superintendent of New Church Development. The responsibilities of the Area Superintendent and the relationship between the two Conferences are in development stages.

Financial Status:

February – December 2006:

Evaluating current assets: liquidating expendable property, determining which properties to sell, securing appraisal and developing a marketing plan.

Evaluating Current Projects:

February-July 2006:

Projects in developing stages evaluated as to their viability and their needs.

Identification of Potential New Sites:

Current and Ongoing:

Demographic Studies

Coordinating Plans with Ethnic Task Groups

Current and Ongoing

Develop Final Plan

January-June 2007

Assess availability of Pastoral Leadership

Select Sites

Develop Strategies for each selected site, e.g. Parent Church, Second Campus, Parachute Drop.

Determine time-line

Develop Guidelines and Benchmarks for New Church Sites

Provide a reliable estimate of financial needs and the sources available to the proposed plan.