



The Bishop's Journal

In Mission for Others – Taking it Home!

IN 2006, THE EASTERN SYNOD, gathered in assembly, adopted a *Renewed Vision for Mission*. As part of this vision, every congregation was encouraged to have a congregational mission plan. A team of leaders from across our synod – the *Taking it Home Team* – has been assembled to facilitate a process to achieve this goal. A.R.E. – A Renewal Enterprise (www.arenwalenterprise.com) – has been contracted to help us. You've heard about Kelly Fryer and Tana Kjos... Now you'll get to hear from them and from the Eastern Synod Taking it Home Team!

The *Taking it Home Team* – Joel Crouse, Dennis Eaton, Kelly Fryer, Tana Kjos, André Lavergne, Pat Lovell, Kimberlyn McNabb and Tanya Ramer – is facilitating a series of day-long events to be held in each Conference of the Eastern Synod over the next several months.

Every Eastern Synod congregation is encouraged to send a team to one of these events. Here is what these congregational leadership teams can expect:

- Your team will experience a process for initiating mission renewal and you will be equipped to replicate the process within your own congregation.
- Your team will help your congregation to...
 - (Re)discover God's dream for your community, congregation, and life.
 - Develop a purpose/mission statement for your congregation.
 - Read your context. Articulate your guiding principles.
 - Focus your congregation's ministry around key "strategic directions."
- Your team will articulate its own purpose & core values to help guide you as, together, you facilitate

mission renewal within your own congregation.

- Your team will identify 3 to 6 action steps you can and will take in order to spark mission renewal in your congregation.
- Your team will have an opportunity to cluster with two other congregational *Taking it Home* teams for mutual encouragement and accountability.

Who Should Attend? Keeners!

- People who have a keen interest in making a difference!
- People who are open to the future, prepared to participate and help with implementation plans.
- Decision makers, dreamers, change-agents, "do-er's."
- People who are willing to work with others for positive change within their congregation and community.

We hope that people who attend this event will be prepared to make a year-long commitment to the

process of mission-renewal in their congregation! How?

After the event, the team should plan to meet within 5-7 days to debrief the event, to reaffirm their commitment together, and to make final plans for the rest of your *first steps*.

The team should plan to give a follow up report to the leaders & members of your congregation about what you have experienced & learned from this event and what your *next steps* will be.

We recommend that, following the event, you identify a friendly group within your congregation – maybe the congregational council, mission team or other group – who will allow you to practice facilitating the process of developing a purpose statement.

Then, within the next 3-6 months and with the support of your congregation's leaders, we invite you to schedule, plan, and facilitate a "Taking it to the Streets" event for the

members of your congregation in order to articulate a congregational purpose statement.

Finally, we encourage you to consider leading a series of *Taking it to the Streets* events within your congregation over the next year. These will help your members "read" their context, articulate their guiding principles, and formulate strategic directions that will lead to renewal – all for the sake of God's mission.

Are you interested? If so, start talking to your pastor and other congregational leaders and get on board! We'd love to have your congregation share in this exciting new venture!

+ Michael

and the Bringing it Home Leadership Team