

Ideas for Transformational Ministry Fund from Conference Gatherings and other Conversations

These are the notes from every Listening Post (seven in all)

--Bonuses for rural calls

--Support lay leadership training

--Debt Relief

Ministry Transformation Fund Listening Post I

What could the synod do to help your congregation:

--Continue to foster lay leadership

--Continue to train folks in leadership

--Lay School

--coursework doesn't have to lead to SAM work, but develop leadership

--Look to the future with deep hope and let go of what happened in the past.

--Help reach people with Very Busy Lives

--Help people connect to grace

→If you had \$50k, \$200k, what would you do?

--Bring in a fabulous speaker who could get folks excited about ministry.

--Offer reparations for the taking of indigenous lands, property built by enslaved labor,

--give money away

--move beyond scarcity mentality

--Belonging

--The ability to tell others why it matters that you have a relationship with Jesus Christ, and with his church.

>Living Lord is doing Interest Groups as a way of connecting over affinities

--How do we help people transcend?

--Invest in our young people. Create safe, welcoming, fun spaces for them.

--People are asking for ways to be on the Way of Jesus

What would have the most impact:

>Something BIG—gets attention from our congregations and even the media

>Partner with an organization outside the Christian church

>Learn the history of this area vis a vis oppression and colonialism.

--that will cost money.

--How do we help our congregations see those who have been hurt by our colonial/oppressor past?

--until we do this work, we have no standing to preach the gospel

>How do we give the church back to the people?

--Attend to lay formation

--Authenticity

--How do we embrace all of the opportunity before us—multiple ways to worship, technological advances, etc.?

EMC Gathering 2026 Notes:

Mission Priorities-

- create younger disciples - e.g. camps and campus ministry
 - Youth want to be involved in community initiatives
 - Young people are acting their way into belief
- Non -worship centered communities ("Hubs")
 - Connect with the needs of the community
 - Space for worship is present, but not the focus
- Support for immigrants and refugees
 - Accompaniment was given as an example
- Mental health services
 - Particularly in response to violence
- Ecumenical partnerships in fresh expression
 - Get rid of boundaries for the sake of the gospel
- Are we asking the youth for input on these questions?
- Community organizing
 - For building up Christian community and
 - Getting to know our neighbors

- Build up the lay community
 - Too much silo-ing
- Support for St. Philip
 - Community organizing

With \$\$\$ what would you do?

- Mental health services
 - Particularly in response to violence
- Community organizing
 - For building up Christian community and
 - Getting to know our neighbors
- Support for St. Philip
 - Community organizing
- create younger disciples - e.g. camps and campus ministry
 - Youth want to be involved in community initiatives
 - Young people are acting their way into belief

Border Conference Notes:

How do we create new systems, new processes that represent the communities we've got, and not the communities we had in 1988.

--Help for bivocational folks

Ministry Transformation Fund Listening Post Western Conference

- Do we need to make our digital/online presence better?
- Can we promote "church" more to those outside the church? Advertising, marketing to tell our story
 - Buy a Super Bowl commercial
 - Be sure to mention Jesus
- A listening tour... do some deep listening to people who are de-churched?
- Subsidize or empower our congregations to do their own ministry and what they do best... the responsibility should be on them, but maybe the money could help them do that
- Do something to help us get outside the church to where the people are

Central Conference MFT Discernment Question Responses:

Mission Priorities-

- Bringing Christ/gospel to the people
- Prayer group - prayer teams across congregations to build prayer groups
- Community connections, chaplains/community interest
- Working with prison incarceration
- Gatherings - getting people together post COVID

- Youth outreach - After school program; youth convo at Synod
- Support campus ministry
- "fight" migration of folks to churches with theology of glory
- Present Christianity is it's authentic form (not the distortion from politicians, power brokers)
- Make the Sunday to Monday connection
- How to speak to people where they're at and welcome them
- What if we asked the world, "what do *you* need?"

What has changed?

- Cultural bridges, inner-racial marriages, etc.
- Shifts in capitalism/wages/real income

With \$\$\$ what would you do?

- Communication (synod t-shirt...to communicate we're here in the community)
- Grants for various ministries (food pantries, childcare scholarship/afterschool/multi-denominational
 - Communicate new ideas to entire synod and collect in a data base of new ideas
- Respite/retreat
- Used to support synod staff an council, travel funds
- Put in Mission Endowment
- Seminary debt reduction
- Support PMA/SAM investment - something like 100 lifetime memberships for FaithLead
- Better support for outdoor ministries
- Don't have to spend; spend responsibly, effectively
- At what level does spending have the greatest impact (gathering table)
- Rocky mountain synod has 2 massive youth gatherings