

Ideas for Transformational Ministry Fund

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Compiled from Conference Gatherings and Conversations

Core Priorities and Vision

- **Authentic Christianity:** Presenting Christianity in its authentic form, distinct from distortions by politicians or power brokers.
 - **Community Connection:** Asking the world, "What do you need?" and making the "Sunday to Monday" connection.
 - **Youth Engagement:** Investing in young people through campus ministry, camps, and community initiatives. Recognizing that young people often "act their way into belief."
 - **Lay Leadership:** Fostering lay formation and leadership training (e.g., Lay School) to "give the church back to the people" and reduce silo-ing.
 - **Justice and History:** Learning the history of oppression and colonialism in the area, acknowledging that this work is necessary to have "standing to preach the gospel."
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Ministry Transformation Fund Listening Post I

How the Synod can help congregations:

- Foster and train lay leadership (Lay School, leadership development).
- Look to the future with deep hope; let go of the past.
- Reach people with "Very Busy Lives" and help them connect to grace.
- Improve digital/online presence and marketing to tell the church's story to those outside.

If we had \$50k - \$200k:

- Bring in inspiring speakers to excite folks about ministry.
- Offer reparations for indigenous lands and property built by enslaved labor.
- Move beyond a "scarcity mentality" and give money away.
- Focus on creating a sense of belonging and the ability to share why a relationship with Jesus matters.

Conference Specific Notes

Border Conference

- Create new systems and processes that represent current communities rather than those from 1988.
- Provide support for bivocational leaders.

Western Conference Listening Post

- Promote "church" to the de-churched through advertising and listening tours.
- Subsidize congregations to empower them to do what they do best.
- "Do something to help us get outside the church to where the people are."

Central Conference Discernment

- **Mission Priorities:** Bringing the Gospel to the people.
- **Funding Ideas:** Seminary debt reduction, support for PMA/SAM investment (e.g., FaithLead memberships), and better support for outdoor ministries.
- **Impact:** Focus on spending responsibly and effectively where it has the greatest impact.

Specific Ministry Initiatives

- **Community Hubs:** Creating non-worship centered communities where space for worship is present but not the primary focus.
 - **Mental Health:** Providing services, particularly in response to violence.
 - **Immigrant/Refugee Support:** Focusing on accompaniment.
 - **Ecumenical Partnerships:** Engaging in "Fresh Expressions" and removing boundaries for the sake of the Gospel.
 - **Prison Ministry:** Working with those impacted by incarceration.
 - **Rural Ministry:** Providing bonuses for rural calls to support leadership in those areas.
 - **Debt Relief:** Addressing seminary debt to support clergy health.
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Strategic Questions for the Fund

- How do we help people transcend?
- How do we embrace new opportunities (multiple ways to worship, technological advances)?
- What would have the most impact? (e.g., "Something BIG" that gets media attention, or partnering with non-Christian organizations).