



SOWING THE SEEDS OF COLLABORATION

- Rev. Donna Simon

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

In congregations, we’ve long raised up Paul’s teaching about the importance of all of the members of the body to highlight our interdependence as lay and rostered members, differently gifted and working together to be Christ’s body for the sake of the world. As we move into the next era of our life together, we are also realizing how important this teaching is for the sake of the whole body of Christ. Congregations and ministries are also individual members of the body, and more and more of them are learning to collaborate together for a multitude of reasons.



Rev. Donna Simon is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA and earned her Doctorate of Ministry from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. She was called to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church in 2000. In 2011 Abiding Peace merged with St. Mark and Fountain of Hope Lutheran Churches and is now St. Mark Hope and Peace, KC. She has served as Central States Synod Director for Evangelical Mission since 2016, shepherding congregations under formation and accompanying congregations seeking to grow even more vital.

- Collaboration helps us to be good stewards of increasingly limited resources.
- Collaboration encourages relationship for the sake of ministry: members of the body excel in their own giftedness and rely on the giftedness of others.
- Collaboration allows communities to maintain their unique identity while being part of a new thing that God is doing.

Perhaps your church has considered collaborative ministry with others around you, but you’re not sure how to get started. What sorts of conversations should all parties have in the initial phases? How do you come to a mutually beneficial agreement about working together? How do you handle the nuts and bolts—who, what, where, and how do we pay for this?

Join Director for Evangelical Mission Rev. Donna Simon for a conversation about how four congregations came together to form a parish that is working really well, and examples of how other collaborative arrangements are serving the church and its people.

May 9, 2024
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Registration: Free