

Report on September TEAM Workshop

The second all-day workshop was held on September 22 at Immanuel. The meeting started with introductions led by Pastor Gary Logan, followed by a rousing singing of “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”. Devotions were taken from page 39 of Kelly Fryer’s book, Reclaiming the L Word and prayer was led by Pastor Sally Cook. TEAM members are urged to read the Fryer book before the next workshop.

Pastor Rita Gardner Tweed from the Florida Bahamas Synod and Pastor Jerry Wahl, Mission Director, attended. They expressed their support for the TEAM’s work and announced that the ELCA is providing a grant of \$5,000 to the West Pasco Lutheran Team to help with the expenses of the exploration process.

Dave Raymond then presented a recap of the August 4th TEAM workshop, along with two items of new information. First, we looked at the amazing growth in the Trinity area south and west of Joyful Spirit. This area is



showing actual and projected population growth of 44% between 2000 and 2011. Because of this growth, the St. Petersburg Catholic Diocese has purchased 62 acres for a new church that they expect to serve a couple of thousand families. There is currently no ELCA church in this area, which suggests that the TEAM may want to look at sponsoring a church start there or moving a church there.

Second, we took a quick look at some of the principles in The Purpose-Driven Church by Pastor Rick Warren. The purposes portion of our Town Hall meetings was organized around the five biblical purposes of a church. Warren contends that a healthy congregation will be driven by all five purposes, with balance. A purpose-driven church will invite new people in through **evangelism**, bring them into the **fellowship** of the congregation, help them learn and grow in faith and **discipleship**, which encourages them to go out in **service** to others. **Worship** is at the center of all of these purposes.

Bob Memoli and Larry Lehlbach reported on plans for Joint Worship on November 18. Several TEAM members signed up to help with the arrangements. Joint worship is one of the two short-team measures that the TEAM identified at its August 4th meeting. Pastors Sally Cook and Jerry Nordsiek reported on the second short-team measure, the joint confirmation that is underway with well over 20 youth enrolled.

We then looked at the 12 pages of reports from the Town Hall meeting held in each church. In all 6 churches people want to see more members and especially more families with children. There was also a strong emphasis on serving others and on music and worship. Evangelism and discipleship were a little less emphasized. Other common themes were child care, adult day care, transportation, money and technology. **The Town Hall Meeting Page** has charts that show the emphasis by congregation.

TEAM members then met by congregation to summarize the 2-page report on their congregation into a summary statement of their church’s vision. These summaries were collected into chart, **Shared Visions for Our Futures**.

The TEAM then studied seven options for cooperation, with numerous case studies of churches that had adopted one of these options. Once again TEAM members met by congregation to consider the potential of each of the options. The chart, which was prepared by TEAM member Bill Boland, below shows the outcome of this discussion. Green mean that the option has good potential; yellow is some potential, and red indicates very little potential:

<i>Options Available</i>	All Saints	First	Immanuel	Joyful Spirit	King of Glory	King of King
1. Non-cooperation.	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red
5. Shared Building	Red	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Red
2. Shared Pastor	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green
Joint Programs - Already started	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3. Jointly-sponsored service organization	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
4. Parish Model	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
6. Merger	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red
7. Consolidation	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green

The three options with the highest potential are: Shared pastor, Parish Model, and Consolidation. A one-page paper, **Opportunities for Cooperation**, describes these options in more detail.

The TEAM then turned its attention to communications. The one-page paper, **Opportunities for Cooperation**, will be an important communication tool. This paper was shared with the council members who attended the September 25th meeting, TEAM members will pick a Sunday in each congregation to distribute the paper to everyone and talk about it in a temple talk. On that Sunday someone can check of people from the membership directory so copies can be mailed, with a cover letter, to members who were not at worship. Members will be reminded of the www.pascolutherans.com web site. We tentatively scheduled a joint information meeting for all members for Tuesday evening, December 4th, at King of Kings.

TEAM member Gene Kortier, who is the president of King of Kings, read an important letter that he and the council drafted for King of Kings members about a new offer for their property. This letter urges King of Kings members to “pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit’s guidance” as the congregation explores ministry through the TEAM.