

**Synod Visioning Oversight Team**  
**December Synod Council Report 2018**

Members of the Committee: Pr Greg Berger, Pr. Sheryl Kester Beyer, Pr Sarah Cordray,  
Pr Allison Siburg, Bishop Brian Maas, Diane Harpster

While we press on into our Strategic Vision with much to do, we are also beginning to ask, “What’s next beyond 2019? The consensus is to include more discernment opportunities and to seek broader input for the next vision. Elsewhere in the agenda you will find opportunity to address this question as the Synod Council.

Please note the Strategic Visioning Status chart for an overview of work completed and ongoing. There are a number of recommendations for changed target dates in the en bloc. This will more accurately reflect reality and current expectations. But overall, progress is positive!

Just a few other highlights on work being done:

**Hope**

- “*Congregational Vitality*” The area will be assessed in 6-12 months to determine next steps with a clearer objective.
- “*We are Church Together*” Was introduced at Theo Con. Lenten materials will be available to download off the website with an introduction to the theme. It will be determined by the working group if there will also be copies mailed to each congregation.
- “*We are Church for the Sake of the World*” While creating resources for worship and faith communities, it is the desire of this working group to create ways to form lasting relationship with neighbors of diverse views, backgrounds and traditions. The group is also looking at transition from their work to the next vision plan, possibly including days of discernment for Lent 2020.

**Connect**

- “*Call Process Support to Congregations*” Cluster Deans are receptive to a greater role in helping newly called leaders in their transition. They are considering a script to use as part of a 6-12 month follow-up with new calls.
- *Healthy Leaders*”  
Boundaries 201 will be coming out in early 2019  
“How Then Will I Lead?” is described as, “An intensive, introspective program for rostered ministers of the Nebraska Synod, ELCA. Helping participants to lead out of out of God-given identity guided by the Holy Spirit.” Co-lead by Pr. Paula Lawhead and Mr. Martin Malley the cohort will begin the end of January and meet five times over 6 months. I don’t think it is too late to sign up!
- “*Ecumenical Relationships*” Recruiting continues
- “*Mission Strategies*” It was noted that 47% of Nebraska Synod congregations are in some form of shared ministry – yoked, contracted or cooperative.

**Go**

- “*Young Adult Strategy*” We are not sure what is next. It will be necessary to recruit a new team.
- “*Seniors Working Group*” 20 churches participating in the pilor group for “Generation: Together.” This group is seeking a grant from Immanuel for a SLIM retreat.