

**Outcomes for the Churchwide Organization
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
March 11, 2005**

This document provides direction for churchwide staff and strategic planning information for the Church Council, churchwide program committees and boards, and ministry partners beginning with the 2006 – 2007 biennium. The five strategic directions and the twelve accompanying outcome statements are the responsibility of all program units, offices, and service units of the churchwide organization; that is, specific strategic directions and outcome statements are not assigned to specific units.

Preamble

The work of the churchwide organization is guided by the Statement of Purpose found in Chapter 4 of the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, the mission and vision statements of this church, and the churchwide organization's five strategic directions and four commitments for implementation, which were approved by the 2003 Churchwide Assembly.

In the context of the documents noted above, the churchwide organization develops biennially a set of outcome statements that provide specific direction for its work.

The outcome statements for the 2006-2007 biennium follow below. These outcomes rely on a high level of various forms of cooperation, collaboration, and coordination among churchwide units as well as among the churchwide organization and its partners, including congregations, synods, and the agencies and institutions of this church.

The outcome statements identify leadership development as the priority focus of churchwide work because leadership is so central to achieving all of the strategic directions and the churchwide organization can effectively engage and support rostered and other leaders who serve in and through this church's congregations, synods, institutions, agencies, associations, and churchwide organization.

The churchwide organization intends to work very closely with its partners to counsel, inspire, and challenge current and future leaders and to develop more fully the capacity for ministry of this church's leadership. To accomplish this work, the churchwide organization will convene gatherings to assemble the wisdom about leadership development dispersed throughout this church, leading to the development and implementation of plans designed to achieve the strategic directions and their accompanying outcomes.

Finally, each of the outcome statements will be accompanied by specific implementation strategies for the 2006-2007 biennium. These strategies, along with measurement criteria designed to assess the effectiveness of the work of the churchwide organization during the biennium, will be developed by the units of the churchwide organization during 2005.

Outcomes

Support congregations in their call to be faithful, welcoming, and generous, sharing the mind of Christ

Current and future leaders throughout this church will:

Articulate the connection between Word and Sacrament, vocation, and God's mission in the world.

Stimulate a vibrant worship life that draws on Lutheran and ecumenical, including ethnic and global, resources.

Assist members, congregations, synods, and institutions and agencies of this church to grow in evangelical outreach.

Current and future leaders throughout this church will:

Grow in their capacity to be evangelical witnesses and servants.

Grow in their capacity to lead communities of evangelical witness and service.

Be equipped to build and support diverse and inclusive communities of faith.

Step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God's love for all that God has created.

Current and future leaders throughout this church will:

Have the skills and commitment needed to support communities of theological and moral discernment for participation in public life for the sake of the world.

Be equipped to deepen public understanding of and response to issues of wealth and poverty, both domestically and globally.

Deepen and extend our global, ecumenical, and interfaith relationships for the sake of God's mission.

Current and future leaders throughout this church and its companions will:

Be committed to and equipped for global and ecumenical accompaniment.

Assist the church to bring forth and support faithful, wise, and courageous leaders whose vocations serve God's mission in a pluralistic world.

Current and future leaders throughout this church will:

Be characterized by theological wisdom, a love for the Church, and a courageous embrace of the critical, integral role they play in its mission.

Be equipped to live and teach life-long stewardship.

Work actively to address this church's need for greater diversity in race, ethnicity, age, and gender among its leadership.

Be healthy, hopeful, and collegial.