

# Loving, Learning, Leading

## Risk-taking Mission and Justice Work Team

### Team Members:

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**Staff Liaison:** Rev. Carol Windrum

### Goals:

- Empower congregations to do risk taking mission and justice work with the goal of paving the way for making disciples who make a difference for the transformation of the world.
- Integrate concepts of risk-taking mission and justice work into the work of leadership development and congregational transformation.
- [Align risk-taking mission and justice work around the conference and general conference strategic initiatives.](#)
- Establish the program and funding for clergy risk-taking mission and justice work.
- [Have 2009 funding plan recommendations ready for the Common Table by November 10, 2008.](#)
- [Have 2010 funding plan recommendations ready for the Common Table by February 15, 2009.](#)

### Strategy 1:

[Review and affirm General Conference and Nebraska Conference strategic initiatives as well as the conference mission, vision and core values statements. Apply this discernment to evaluate current risk-taking mission and justice work in the Nebraska Conference.](#)

General Conference adopted four strategic initiatives at the 2008 session in Ft. Worth. Determine what role they should play in focusing the work of the Nebraska Conference. They include:

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world
- Creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations
- Engaging in ministry with the poor, and
- Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.

The Nebraska Conference strategic initiatives are Leadership Development, Congregational Transformation and Risk-taking Mission and Justice Work. Determine the overlap and commonalities between the General Conference and Nebraska Conference initiatives. Apply this discernment to the evaluation of current work being done by existing groups.

### To do:

- [Use the conference mission, vision and core values and the alignment with the general church and conference strategic initiatives as a common filter for evaluation and accountability of the conference mission and justice work of sunseting boards, commissions and committees listed under the Risk-taking Mission and Justice Work Team.](#)
- [Review the funding plan to see where money has been allocated in the past.](#)
- [Use research \(surveys, interviews, focus groups\) to help identify specific needs.](#)

- Review and get input from Board of Mission Outreach programs and ministries to determine effectiveness and alignment with conference mission, vision and core values as well as the general church and conference strategic initiatives. .
- Create 2009 and 2010 funding plan recommendations including the following:
  - a. Team recommendations for what programs/efforts continue, end and begin along with rationale for the recommendation.
  - b. Explain how recommendations align with the criteria used for evaluation which may include, but not be limited to the: General Church and Annual Conference priorities and how they support the vision, mission and core values of the conference.
  - c. How recommendations connect to the funding plan.
  - d. The team's view of how the recommended program/effort will continue and what structure is needed to make it sustainable.
  - e. Describe how the recommendation helps the local churches in Nebraska achieve our vision and mission.
  - f. For programs ending, share what to do to honor the past, deal with the loss of this program/effort and how to deal with material items left behind, i.e. records, materials, etc.....
- Collaborate with other teams to review each other's work in the evaluative phase.

### Strategy 2:

Evaluate and begin to shape a district facilitator model.

#### To do:

Explore models of district facilitators.

- Review Missouri River District and Blue River District approaches to district-wide facilitation.
- Contact other conferences to discover best practices and successful facilitation models.
- Design model and create funding plan for implementation for Nebraska Conference district facilitation.

### Strategy 3:

Design and promote young adult and youth internship models for implementation in the Nebraska Conference. Recommend how the emphasis on risk-taking mission and justice work is delivered in the Leadership Development Academy. Collaborate with the Leadership Development Team in the development of this model.

#### To do:

- Explore existing internship models in our conference and in the general agencies of the church.
- Discern and articulate the goals and scope of work for an internship program.
- Determine how the program integrates with the Nebraska United Methodist youth.
- Design an internship model, including accompanying funding plan.

### Strategy 4:

Promote the concepts of faith-based community organizing as a tool of empowerment and determine how those concepts will be used to further the mission and vision of the Nebraska United Methodist Conference.

**To do:**

- Consult and learn from those in our conference who are trained in faith-based community organizing.
- Suggest priority topics and local area issues where Conference community organizing can be effective.

**Strategy 5:**

Design or adopt a program for the local church which incorporates education, mission, risk-taking mission and justice work, including theological foundations.

**To do:**

- Identify current models for adapting or adopting.
- Create the model, including delivery system.

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