

How Do We Organize Our Mission Network?

The way to encourage your Mission District and its congregations to be mission driven is as varied as the Mission Districts across the NALC. Each Mission District needs to evaluate their culture, their strengths and weaknesses, their structures, and their needs before designing a mission network approach that fits them. Below are three examples of approaches already at work within NALC mission districts.

However your mission network is designed, it should include three C's in it's DNA.

3 C's of a mission network:

- Commitment to prayer in all needs, but specifically in the area of missions
- Connect people and congregations to resources and tools for missions
- Cultivate the soil for mission planting through communicating news of mission efforts and stories, and helping coordinate mission events to excite and engage.

District Mission Team

This approach works well if one or more of these characteristics describe you. Your mission district is densely populated with many congregations. You formally structured. You tend to work in teams or committees. You have a variety of mission partnerships and needs.

In this approach a traditional team is developed to be the creator and keeper of the network. A chair or co-chairs are named and a team of 5-7 people, which includes pastors and laity, come together to pray for missions, to establish connections between missions and mission partners, and to cultivate the soil for mission growth and support. This will be creating communication networks for sharing personal stories, mission needs and opportunities, training and resource sharing.

Mission Central

This approach works well if one or more of these characteristics describe you. Your mission district is not densely populated. You are informally structured. You may or may not tend to work in teams or committees. You may or may not have a variety of mission partnerships and needs.

This approach utilizes a single person or pair (lay person or pastor) to serve like an assistant to the Dean, specializing in mission. This person collects mission information (resources, congregational news, etc) and then shares prayer needs, mission partnership opportunities, and tools throughout the the communication networks in the Mission District.

Mission All

This approach works well if one or more of these characteristics describe you. Your mission district has few congregations. You are informally structured or are new. You tend to work as one large team. You may tend to focus on one area of mission partnership and need.

In this approach every congregation in the mission district takes responsibility for mission. As one body every congregation communicates and prays together, creates relationships among congregations (finds mission partners for any/all missions within the district, usually informally in a small group). All take responsibility for training and promoting a mission focus in the mission district.

Organizing a District Mission Team

The NALC is a Christ-centered church. Jesus reminds us at his ascension that he is with us always, even to the end of the age. We are a mission-driven church. Mission cannot be done in isolation. It is about relationship and building strategic mission networks. We are traditionally grounded, which binds us to our brothers and sisters in history and today around the world. We are congregationally focused and organized to make strong mission centers to locally serve. All this is done in community. The work is strengthened by a dedicated mission team. The harvest is plenty but the workers are few. We cannot do this alone.

Mission needs strategic mission networks. Each Mission District and congregation is unique and so too will be the shape and function of their mission networks. But, they will be united in building a mission driven culture and will:

- **Commit** to prayer in all need, but specifically in the area of missions
- **Connect** people and congregations to resources and tools for mission
- **Cultivate** the soil for mission planting through tools like communicating news of mission efforts and stories, and helping coordinate mission events to excite and engage.

Creating A Mission District Mission Network

What is the purpose for creating a District Mission Team?

(circle all that apply)

1. To get the missions office off my back and check that box at my next Deans' meeting.
2. To gather passionate mission leaders to train and engage the congregations and individuals in our Mission District and promote being in relationship with a local mission, and NALC mission congregation, and a global mission.
3. To lay the groundwork for planting missions in our mission district.
4. To create support networks for our mission congregations.
5. To help connect congregations with missions regionally and globally.
6. To pray for the mission work of our district.
7. To establish communication networks to promote and engage missions.

What will the team look like?

(see "How Do We Organize Our Mission Network?" on page 1.)

1. District Mission Team (regular meetings, 5-7 people), covering multiple areas of interest.
2. Mission Central (no official meetings, 1-2 people), communicates mission opportunities and needs and prays for missions.
3. Mission All (no team, every congregation/leader participates), picks one area and works on the purpose as an entire mission district.

Support needed for the team?

Who comes to mind?

Timeline for contacting and releasing the ministry.

Organizing a Congregational Mission Team

What Mission Team(s) already exist?

What is the purpose of creating a Mission Team?

(circle all that apply)

1. Pastor said to (because the Mission Office or Dean said to).
2. To cultivate a culture in the congregation excited to engage in mission locally, regionally, and globally.
3. To manage our “mission” ministries.
4. To find, support, and release people to be in mission at the church, through the church, and on their own.
5. To pray for our mission partners.
6. To communicate about and grow the relationship with our mission partners.
7. To organize support for our mission partners.
8. To find a local, NALC, and global mission partner.

What gifts and abilities are needed to accomplish the purposes chosen?

Who has those gifts and abilities?

What should the team look like?

1. Five- to seven-member team to be the vision-casters, training/event planners, and communicators for all things mission
2. One to two people take on one purpose at a time
3. Multiple 1-2 person teams

What is the timeline for asking people and creating the team(s)?

What does the team need to do its work?

Closing Prayer

Building Your Spiritual House – A Community Effort

Originally shared as a Table Talk Exercise and Mission District Mission Meeting during 2016 Lutheran Week in Anaheim. The additional material provided here can be used as an excellent follow-up resource for mission district mission teams. For access to the booklet in its entirety, please visit:

<https://www.thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/Documents/Events/Convocations/2016-Convo/2016-Mission-Festival-Booklet.pdf>

For corresponding video teaching, please visit:

<http://www.thenalc.org/2016-nalc-convo-video/>

B. The Construction Process. (10 Minutes)

The house of the Lord is used to reference not only a structure built by man but also the men who build it. The house of the Lord is built out of more than stones and dirt and clay; it is also built of flesh and bones and blood. Regardless of the building materials, the foundation of our house is the same: Christ. One stone does not make a building; the stones have to be joined together. In

community, we use the mortar of daily scripture reading, continual prayer, and worship to bind us together as the living house of the Lord and to keep us Christ centered. With Christ as our head we can't help but respond by being mission driven and taking the Good News to our neighbors both near and far. What does a Christ-centered and mission-driven "building" look like?

Read the scriptures passages below and then discuss the questions that follow.

- **Isaiah 28:16-17 (ESV)** ¹⁶ *therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'* ¹⁷ *And I will make justice the line and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter.*
- **Ephesians 2:19-20 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...*
- **1 Corinthians 3:10-11 (ESV)** ¹⁰ *According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*
- **Matthew 7:7-8 (ESV)** ⁷ *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*
- **1 Peter 2:4-5 (ESV)** ⁴ *As you come to **him**, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
- **1 Chronicles 16:11 (ESV)** ¹¹ *Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!*

3. **Building Upon.** Which ones are there but need polishing? *Star them and place them on the Blueprint Graphic (page 32).*
4. **Building Up.** Which two to three do you think you need to begin being set in place? *Check them and place them on the Blueprint Graphic.*
5. **Potential Roadblocks.** Even though we may want to be “Christ centered” and “mission driven” often we are held back by “institutional” challenges or roadblocks. Check off what you think are the strongest institutional values or practices *holding back* such change in your congregation. *List them here.*

6. **Rock Pile.** Compare your answer with others at your table and then together agree on the three to four strongest factors hampering your faith community/Spiritual House from becoming more Christ centered and mission driven. *List them here, commit them to prayer and consider them for the Rock Pile for discard.*

Table of Contrasts

Identity Shapes Us: Institutionalism vs. Kingdom of God

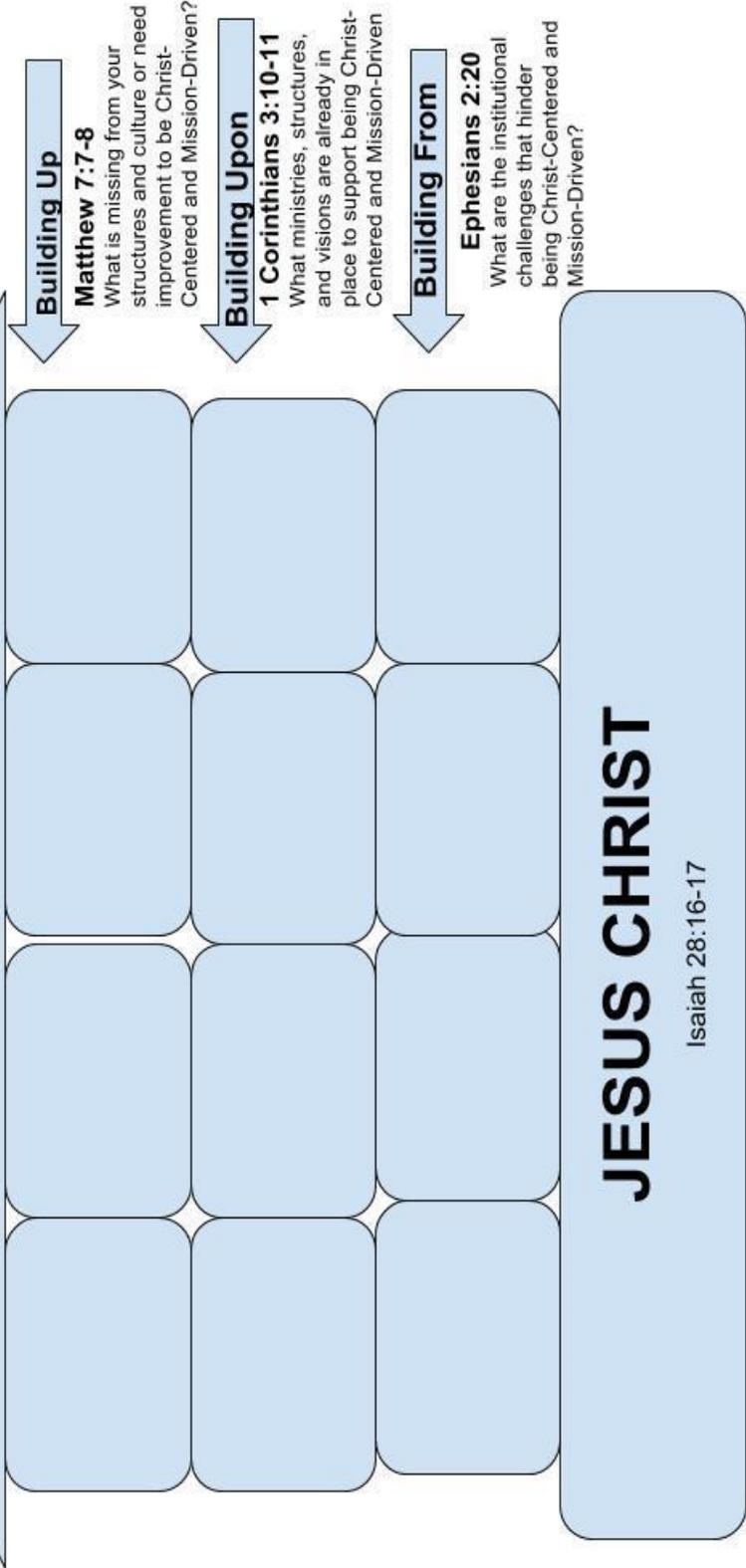
	Institutionalism	Kingdom of God
“Church”	Church is a “what”: organization, institution, building, place	Church is a “who”: <i>ekklesia</i> , Called-out Ones, Family of God, Holy Family, Royal Priesthood
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and grow a membership organization; members are consumers of activities and services • “How many do you worship?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Christ-centered disciples whose mission is to take the Gospel into the world to love, witness and serve • “Who do you worship?” — the Living God
Measure of Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth: new members, increasing attendance, buildings, size of cash reserve • Grow bigger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual growth, Fruit of the Spirit, number of baptisms (new Christians), sharing the Gospel with those outside the community • Prepared leaders who plant mission posts and congregations
Guidance	Books, programs, methodologies, “what other local churches are doing,” best modern business practices	God’s Word, prayer, Holy Spirit, missional vision, Trust in the Living God
Missionaries, Priests and Ministers	Those who receive wages or financial support for this role	All “members of the Body” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Missionaries</i> (from Latin: those “sent”) • <i>Priest</i> (from Latin: “bridge builder; I Peter 2:5) • <i>Minister</i> (from Latin: “servants”)
Congregation’s Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend weekly services • Social gatherings • Community service and “being nice” • Offering activities and services to members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship: Word and Sacrament • Community: healing, encouragement and accountability • Training, mobilizing and transforming ordinary people for Kingdom purposes
Pastor’s Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run a successful organization • Lead weekly services • Meet members’ needs • Employee of congregation • Omni-competency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word and Sacrament ministry • Lead using one’s unique spiritual gifts • Ensures mission of Jesus happens among the gathering of believers • Identifies gifts and leaders and prepares individual to live out their vocational call and personal ministry • Mobilizes the congregation for mission in the world • Covenant relationship with congregation

“Out”reach, Mission and Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Attract” more people “in” • Offer the right services and activities • Employ people who can perform and produce more people/members • Marketing, websites, social media • Wait for people to come and welcome • Get people “involved” 	<i>Mission</i> (Latin: Sent “Out”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness to and share Gospel with those who don’t know Jesus • Expectation of miraculous from God • Send/support foreign missionaries • Plant new churches • Bring Good News where there is bad news • Bring healing
Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using time, talent and treasure for the church organization (“within”) • Raising funds to meet church budget needs • Tithe: a practice to get people to give more to church • Filling “slots for church tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus’ followers wisely manage their resources and spend according to God’s call • Tithe: giving one’s first and best 10% in thanksgiving to God for what he has done and continues to do • Faith-based budgeting for Kingdom needs
Other Congregations	Seen as competition for members	Partners in the Kingdom

“Blueprint”

Shoring up your **Christ-Centered** foundation to direct your **Mission-Driven** response.

+
1 Chronicles:16:11
Prayers



D. Follow-up Activity: Shoring Up *(To be done in Home Congregation)*

This activity draws on the work begun during the Table Talk session during day one of the NALC 2016 Mission Festival/Convocation. It may be used as a part of a visioning process by ministry teams with their specific focus or by the congregation as a whole. It is concerned with **shoring up your Christ-centered foundation to direct your mission-driven response.**

Background

When you begin a building project, whether starting from scratch or renovating, the process is the same. First, you need to take stock of your environment and *what you already have* (for good and not-so-good). Then your team or congregation needs to be on a firm footing about *your shared purpose*. Next, you need to explore ideas and information about *your possible future* (how your building will be used). Finally, you agree on a *Vision*, a kind of blueprint, for what the final product will be, along with action steps, assignments for the construction team, and tools and supply lists that can help build and equip the team throughout the process and beyond. If everyone is not on the “same page” of the blueprint at the right time it is very likely that the building project will not be stable or long-lasting. The whole process needs to be grounded in Scripture and bathed in prayer.

As your congregation prepares the blueprint of your building/renovation project, some questions to be answered include:

- What does it look like to be Christ centered and mission driven?
- How will that vision direct our decisions?
- What ministries do we say “yes” or “no” to when living out that vision?
- What does worship look like in a Christ-centered and mission-driven community?
- How will we train to be Christ centered and mission driven?

Overview Directions for “Shoring Up” Process

Specific directions and materials are posted at **www.thenalc.org/mission-documents**. Download these as you prepare for your building/renovation process. They will lead both the process leadership team and the participants through much of the process. The following are preparation steps.

Leadership Team. Assemble a team. Consider those who attended the Convocation. In addition, include any of your clergy, staff and lay ministry leaders with experience leading groups and planning teams. Members of the NALC’s Great Mission Society team are also available as a resource for reimbursement of travel costs.

Schedule. The process is best accomplished over a series of sessions totaling 4-8 hours (no session under 1.5 hours long). It can be done in an all-day retreat, or two Saturday mornings. The point is that you take the time to allow for stories to be shared, deep discussion to take place, and shared vision to be cast.

Materials and Resources. As you prepare, review the materials/resources available on the Mission Connection Resource List. You will also need flip charts (to be hung on wall as they are created), markers, Bibles, enough tables for groups of 5-8, depending on number of people invited. Be sure to include copies of the steps below for everyone present, as well as the blueprint graphic: *Shoring Up your Christ-centered foundation to direct your Mission-driven response.*

Mission Connection Resource List

Most resources can be found under the “Mission Resources” link on the bottom of the “Missions” page of the NALC website (<http://thenalc.org/missions/>)

- NALC Mission Teams
 - <http://thenalc.org/missions/>
- Videos, handouts, and audio from Mission Festivals
 - <http://thenalc.org/mission-festival-2015/>
 - <http://thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/Documents/Missions/2015MF-Mission-imPossible-EEMI-assessment-tool.pdf>
- Finding A Mission Partner
 - NALC Mission — <http://thenalc.org/north-american-missions/>
 - Global — <http://thenalc.org/global-missions/>
 - NALC Missionaries — <http://thenalc.org/global-workers/>
 - Applying to be a mission partner — <http://thenalc.org/gcs-partner-app/>
- Tools to teach, discuss, and change culture
 - Being Mission Driven — <http://thenalc.org/mission-videos/>
 - 2016 Mission Intensive — <http://thenalc.org/missiondrivenvideo/>
 - Convocation Archives — <http://thenalc.org/convocation-archive/>
 - Discipleship Moments — <http://thenalc.org/discipleship-moment/>
 - <https://vimeo.com/159962086>
 - <https://vimeo.com/123683230>
 - <https://vimeo.com/121696699>
 - Connect to Missions — <http://thenalc.org/mission-videos/>
 - Being Christ Centered — <http://thenalc.org/drops-from-the-well/>
 - Connecting with fellow missionaries — <http://www.nalcnetwork.com/>
 - Building faith skills and spiritual disciplines — <http://www.faithwebbing.com/outcome-based-youth-ministry.html>

Mission District Meetings

Wednesday, August 10th

Agenda-

Opening	10 minutes
Planning Exercise	65 minutes
Business Meeting	25 minutes (optional)

Closing Prayer

Preparation

Bring your convocation booklets with you. Ideally decide on who (Dean and/or leader(s)) will lead session. Leader(s) make sure there are flipchart sheets (at least 5) and markers in the room.

*Materials: Four pieces of self-sticking chart paper placed on wall and a couple of markers; participant's booklets for reference to completed afternoon exercise. Write the following titles on top of each chart paper: **Building From, Building Upon, Building Up, Rock Pile, Working Together.***

Opening – 10 minutes

1. **Welcome** by Dean/leaders.

Opening Prayer

Goals of Session

- For the congregations and the MD Dean and council to identify building blocks (opportunities and assets) and challenges of congregations within the MD in becoming more Christ- centered and mission- driven.
- Explore ways MD congregations can support each other and work together and areas where they may need external support.
- Get a little business done
- Review agenda and time constraints.

Introductions

- Go around the room and have people **quickly** introduce themselves by stating their name, their congregation's name and location.

Planning Exercise — 65 minutes

1. Appoint a leader/facilitator, time keeper and note-taker. Have people open to the Blueprint Graphic in their Convocation Booklets (or Section C of Table Talk)
2. Sharing from *Shoring Up* Exercise from afternoon – 40 minutes (ten minutes per area)
 - a. **Building From.** Use first chart paper, entitled “**Building From.**” One person from each congregation present will share *one* item from the *Building From* level of the *Blueprint*. This will be written on a flip chart and the leader will ask how many other congregations had the same item by a show of hands.
 - b. The recorder will count and place that number next to the item. Move on to the next congregation. Note: given the time constraints, not all congregations may be able to contribute for each building area.
 - c. Follow the same process for *Building Upon* and *Building Up*, starting with congregations that may not have contributed yet. If you run out of time, skip the discard *Rock Pile*.
 - d. **Working Together**—10 minutes.
 - Explore ways congregations and the Mission District can foster working relationships in the process of becoming more Christ centered and mission driven.
 - Have people individually and quietly jot down some ideas.
 - Going around the room have people call out ideas while not duplicating others that have been shared already.
 - Possible next steps: Identify two to three follow-up activities including how to form, organize and/or renew your mission team.

Mission Light vs. Mission Deep

Congregations may want to develop guidelines when evaluating mission ministries for funding and active ministry. Here are some that may be useful. Not all of them may be appropriate for your particular culture and context.

Light Connection

Deep Connection

Send a check get a letter/newsletter

Have a relationship

Pray *for*

Pray *with*

Around the world

Around the world, within our state, in our town

Do good *to*

Do good *with*

Silently serve (with a t-shirt)

Serve and share why and in whose name

Once and done

Return and build from (relationship building)

Only for adults

All called and gifted

Only for those that go

Opportunities for all locations and skills/gifts

Only volunteer for those that can

All are ministers and missionaries

Evangelism = marketing

Way of life (response to discipleship)

For a committee to do and decide upon

Corporate, team, and individual called to mission and mission support

Broad scatter (the more the better)

Focused, intense, intentional relationships

Out of what we *should* do

What we are called and gifted to do

What *we* do

Look to join what *God* is doing

Done by the church

Done by each individual, as teams, as church

Support because of the institutional ties

Support groups out of personal connections and shared vision/purpose

The Church: Institutionalism vs. Kingdom of God

- “Churches” or congregations are not purely “institutional” or “kingdom,” but tend toward one or the other.
- Some things mentioned under “institutional” may be used effectively in the “kingdom” if they are subservient to “kingdom” values and dynamics.

	Institutionalism	Kingdom of God
Definition of Church	Organization, Institution, Building, Place	“Called Out Ones” (literal Biblical Greek word for church) Ordinary People Called by Jesus, Out to Transform the World Body of Christ Body of Disciples Family of God
Language	“I go to church.” Church is a “what.”	“I am the church 24/7.” “We are the church 24/7.” Church is a “who.”
Goal	Maintain and Grow Organization	People... disciples bringing Jesus’ rule, reign, redemption and resurrection power to people, problems and places Making and mobilizing disciples of Jesus through teaching and baptizing
Values	Organization’s Activities and Programs Meeting Members’ Needs Being Nice	Prayer (talking/listening), Holy Spirit, Call, God’s Word, Faith, Salvation, Renewal, Mission, Discipleship, Healing, Hope, Law and Gospel, God’s Love, Mutual Kingdom Accountability
Primary Focus	“In” (focus on what happens “in” side of walls)	“In” for the sake of “Out”
Measure of Effectiveness	Attendance, Buildings, Cash “Butts, Buildings, Bucks” Growth of Organization Analyzing and projecting organization’s numbers (on paper and in meetings)	Where is the rule and reign of Jesus increasing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit of Spirit and Character of Jesus • Salvation of Souls (not people switching churches) • Individuals: Is the rule and reign of Jesus greater in one’s life than last year?
Method and Definition of “Out” reach, Mission and Evangelism	Do something to “attract” more people “in” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering the right services and activities • Employing people who can perform and produce more people • Right location and type of building Marketing, Websites, Social Media, Demographics Waiting for people to arrive “in” and welcome Getting people involved “in” Conclusion: Get more members	Mission (Latin: Sent “Out”) Witness and Sharing Gospel (repentance and forgiveness of sins) with those who don’t trust in Jesus Healing Our Broken World and Expectation of the Miraculous from God “I am a missionary 24/7.” What is my mission field? Sending and Supporting Foreign Missionaries Church Planting/Transplanting and City Transformation Bringing “Good News” where there is “Bad News” Making what is “Wrong” ... “Right”
Jesus	Sometimes: allergy to “J” word (Jesus)	Jesus: “Only name by which we can be saved.” Still ALIVE and ACTIVE because of Resurrection
Source of Power and Guidance?	Books, programs or methodologies, especially the latest or trendy Copycat Church Human excitement, enthusiasm and energy	God’s Word: Written (Bible), Spoken, Revealed and in the Flesh Call and Power of Holy Spirit Spiritual Vision: God Revealing Creative Wisdom and the Future Earnest Prayer
Discipleship	Offering education and spiritual growth options Sunday School At “church” Including children and youth options	DISCIPLE: Being transformed and trained as apprentice of Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Repentance and Conversion • In the Word (Scriptures) • Spiritually Formed through Prayer and Disciplines • Called by Jesus, 24/7 • Inviting the Holy Spirit ... continually • Producing and Reproducing: More Disciples and Fruit • Living relationship with Jesus and His followers • Endlessly and to the End of Time: Know, Follow, Serve
Member	Name on a list to be tallied Consumer of the Church’s activities and services Pew-sitters	Person with Important “Part” in Jesus’ Kingdom Purposes and Empowered by Holy Spirit to be that Part and Function, 24/7 (1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12)
In Charge?	People	Living “Lord” God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

“Preacher”	Ordained Pastor or Priest	ALL Followers of Jesus: Preacher is a Proclaimer of the Gospel
Missionaries, Priests and Ministers	Those who receive wages or financial support for this role	ALL Followers of Jesus are Missionaries, Priests and Ministers Missionaries (Latin: “Sent”): Those “Sent” by Jesus, 24/7 Priests 24/7: (from Latin: “Bridge-builder”), 1 Peter 2:5 Ministers (from Latin: Servants): Servants of Jesus, 24/7
Congregation’s Role: The Gathered Church	Weekly Worship Services Social Gatherings Philanthropy: Community Service Being Nice to Others Offering activities and services to members	Word and Sacrament Worship: Bowing down to the living God Community: Healing, Encouragement and Accountability Saving, Transforming, Training and Mobilizing Ordinary People for Kingdom Purposes
Operations	Operate like business or community organization Methodologies: trendy programs; gimmicks; business plan; meetings; committees; finding the “right” idea, structure, programs, location and kind of building; employing the “right” people; assigning tasks; schedules; timelines	Prayer, Call of Jesus and Recognizing His Voice, 24/7 Waiting upon the Lord Spiritual Vision Revealed by God: Seeing with God’s Eyesight Calling and Mobilizing Ordinary People to be Body of Christ Inviting, Equipping and Empowering of Holy Spirit Wise Stewards ALL: Operating According to God’s Word
Structure	“Like it was done in the past” Filling slots and getting people involved Committees (or equivalent) Whatever is trendy	Form follows Kingdom Function in Body of Christ Making Unique “Members” Effective for Kingdom, 24/7 Conclusion: Every Gathering of Believers is Unique Unique Structure that facilitates unique people, time and place
Leadership	Most Capable: Those with worldly success Oftentimes business people Top-Down Control	Servant Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating: Making Others Successful (Bottom-up) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Capable: Mature in Christ (any career) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowered by Holy Spirit “According to Scriptures”: God’s Word, ways and voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership, Spiritual Gifts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reproducing Oneself
Pastor’s Role	Lead and run a successful organization Preach and lead weekly services Meet members’ needs Omni-competency Employee of congregation	Tending the Flock: Word and Sacrament Ministry Lead using one’s unique spiritual gifts, ensuring the ongoing mission of Jesus happens within a gathering of believers One part of the Body, called and set apart for a designated role Mobilizing the Body of Christ to transform the world Called by congregation in covenant relationship
Stewardship	Using time, talent, treasure for the sake of a church organization Filling slots for “Church” tasks Getting funds to meet the church budget needs Tithing: A practice designed to get people to give more to church	Followers of Jesus wisely managing ALL that God has given to each of them, 24/7 and spending it according to God’s call Generosity works against greed Tithe: Giving one’s first and best 10% in thanksgiving to the living God who is the only Provider; practice initiated by God to keep people in the knowledge that He is their Provider
Other Congregations	Competition	Partners in the Kingdom
Faith and Belief	Religion: Moral Therapeutic Deism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God wants people to be good. The goal of life is to be happy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God solves our problems. Good people go to heaven. God creates and watches over human life on earth. 	Active relationship of trust in the Living God who is revealed in the Holy Scriptures, as summarized in the historic creeds
Congregation Size	Bigger is better	“Where two or three are gathered...” Matthew 18:20 Size of a congregation/gathering is irrelevant.
Enemy	Those who stand up for the truth: God’s Word Those who expose “institutionalism”	Sin, Evil, Death and the Devil Devil, Flesh and World Spiritual warfare is REAL. Devil is the one who “steals, kills and destroys” through temptation, opposition and possession. ALL are capable of participating in the devil’s work.

Additional Resources

2018 Lutheran Week - Mission District Meeting (beginning page 39):
<http://www.lutheranweek.com/assets/Mission%20Festival%20&%20Convocation%20-%20Web.pdf>

2017 Lutheran Week - Dr. Gemechis Buba's Staff Report (Pages 16-20):
<https://www.thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/Documents/Events/Convocations/2017-Convo/2017-Staff-Reports.pdf>

2017 Mission Festival Keynote Address - Bishop John Bradosky: "Life-To-Life Discipleship." Print and video resources are available at:
<https://missions.nalcnetwork.com/life-to-life-discipleship/>

Mission Intensive - Initial training for both Mission District Mission Teams and Congregational Mission Teams. Print and video resources are available at:
<http://www.thenalc.org/missiondrivenvideo/>