

New England District Blueprint for Missions: Forward in Mercy, Witness and Life Together



The New England District's Blueprint for Missions was created to formulate the vision, craft the strategy and identify the resources that will guide and focus the district's mission through the year 2012 and beyond.

When the Blueprint for Missions was adopted by the Board of Directors of the NED in 2007, mission goals were expressed through 3 Vision Categories:

- District/Congregation/Pastor Culture Change
- New Mission Initiatives Within New England
- Mission Beyond the District

The New England District in Convention in June of 2009 later adopted this Blueprint for Missions as the strategic plan of action for bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost. Per the last Resolve of this Resolution 02-05-09, "**Resolved**, that Circuits, congregations and pastors study, discuss and pray about how the Mission Blueprint might give direction and spawn new ways of spreading the Gospel from the congregations, circuits and saints of the church.",

a Blueprint Review Committee was established in 2011 for the purpose of reviewing our progress .

The Review Committee revised the original "vision goals" to meet **SAM** standards (Specific, Attainable, Measureable) and be assigned to either **Congregations, Circuit Counselors and their Circuits, Mission Board or District** for implementation so that money and personnel can be focused appropriately.

Also, for clarity, the following definitions were created:

Church Plants: brand new ministry; daughter congregation, etc.
Example: ConnectingPoint Lutheran Mission

Mission Initiatives: congregational or circuit events or activities designed to reach the unchurched.
Example: community outreach events

This revised Blueprint for Missions was presented to and adopted by the NED Board of Directors at their June 20, 2011 meeting.



Congregations

- Every congregation schedule at least one "mission initiative" each year (**Mission Initiatives:** congregational or circuit events or activities designed to reach the unchurched.)
- Every congregation gives to New England District Missions, and 1/2 of our congregations tithe by the end of 2012
- 35 congregations experience 5% growth in worship on an annual basis
- Every congregation develops at least one small group each year designed to train people to engage the unchurched.
- 5% of every congregation membership be newly trained each year to witness for Christ
- 50% of congregations participate in Short Term Mission Trips each year

- 10 congregations offer cross-cultural VBS over years 2011 and 2012
- Every congregation include Kenya Missions monthly in the General Prayers
- 50% of New England District congregations provide financial support for the Kenya Missions over and above their regular district pledge.
- Every congregation set aside 1 Sunday per year (date of their choosing) to a theme involving a New England District Mission or Short Term Mission Trip.
- Every congregation participates in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) in some way by Dec. 2012.

Circuits

- Every circuit, in consultation with the NED District President, explore establishing a church plant or mission initiative

(Church Plants: *brand new ministry; daughter congregation, etc.*

Mission Initiatives: *congregational or circuit events or activities designed to reach the unchurched.)*



- Every circuit encourages its member congregations to participate in some way in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) by December 2012



Mission Board

- 2 new pastors make a Short Term Mission Trip to Kenya each year
- 4 congregations engage a TCN (Transforming Churches Network) consultation each year
- Enlist a Kenya mission Chair
- Enlist a Short Term Mission Trip Chair to educate and coordinate Short Term Mission Trips
- Short Term Mission Trip Chair provides congregations with data twice a year

District

- NED Board of Directors engages a Mission Executive
- New England District grows by 3 church plants by end of 2012
- A missional leader from each of our district congregations is identified for the purpose of communication and networking.
- 50% of pastors participate in Transforming Churches Networking Learning Communities
- 10 congregations annually hold "Witnessing Workshops" for their laity.
- One of the 2 Pastors' Conferences scheduled each year has their program dedicated to an outreach topic
- 5 cross cultural youth activities offered throughout the district and its congregations
- Congregations are encouraged to give financial support to specific District Mission Plants and Initiatives, i.e.: ConnectingPoint Lutheran Mission and Campus and Brazilian Ministry
- 15% of District President's time spent on missions and planning every year
- Each new pastor in NED receives a visit from the District President and becomes acquainted with NED missional expectations (NED Blueprint)
- Every congregation is encouraged to participate in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative in some way by Dec. 2012

