

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2.

MARKS OF TRANSFORMED CONGREGATIONS

Almost all transformational ministries exhibit the following:

- 1 . Spiritual vitality with worship, scripture study and prayer as central activities involving more and more people.
- 2 . Clear sense of identity and biblically based guiding principles - shared by all.
- 3 . New or renewed pastoral and ever-growing lay leadership.
- 4 . Leaders working together and continually equipping others to take leadership roles.
- 5 . Connection to and partnership with the surrounding community which goes beyond the concept of "church membership".
- 6 . Commitment to planning and taking action to carry out God's mission.
- 7 . Commitment of sufficient resources to carrying out God's mission in the community.

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Your USS Transformational Ministry Team:
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We prayerfully equip congregations to:
+ Love Absolutely +
+ Build Relationships +
+ Question + Listen Compassionately +
+ Serve Without Boundaries +
+ Empower Boldly +
+ Adapt Faithfully +
TO PROCLAIM CHRIST!

Guiding Principles:
+ Offer hospitality +
+ Be inclusive +
+ Be open to Spirit-led change +
+ Remember whose mission it is +

+ Trust and obey God +

TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY:

MOVING TOWARDS MISSION!

**UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**



IS YOUR CONGREGATION IN NEED OF RENEWAL?

Many congregations face a crisis of energy and commitment. ELCA research has identified three factors necessary for renewal.

1. Commitment to/participation in God's mission of sharing the Gospel with the world.
2. Willingness to change for the sake of the Gospel.
3. Shared leadership between pastor and congregational leaders.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA has a renewal process available to all congregations called Transformational Ministry that may bring new life to your congregation.

ABOUT THE "PROCESS"

This is not a program or a project. Rather it is an intentional process of renewal that involves the whole congregation. The process begins with prayer and in depth study of the Book of Acts. A team selected by the congregation attends 3 events over a period of 2 years. This Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA process prepares teams for guiding their congregations into a new future.

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER TRANSFORMATION?

The transformational ministry process is for congregations which are serious about mission – those wishing to revisit the basics of Jesus' Great Commission; or those declining in worship attendance and yet dedicated to "being renewed as the body of Christ" - and all willing to change as necessary to follow Jesus' call!

HOW CAN WE JOIN THIS PROCESS?

- Call your Bishop, Bishop's Assistants or Director of Evangelical Mission
- Invite a minimum of two neighboring congregations to participate – this process is carried out "in community" with others!
- Select a Team (including pastor) of 5+ people representing the diversity in your congregation -age, ethnicity, interests, etc.
- Plan to meet on a regular basis with your synod-assigned coach.



NUTS AND BOLTS

The TM process consists of three events - by your time schedule - spaced 6 months apart:

1. Personal Transformation: Reorient self towards God
2. Congregational Transformation: Reorient the congregation towards God
3. Community Transformation: Reorient the congregation to the community, and the community towards God.

- Three or more local congregational TM teams experience the process together; teams return home to work what they learned in their respective congregations
- Congregational TM teams study & discuss the Bible, and pray together – regularly!
- Teams help synod staff select a coach to "walk with them" throughout the process
- Congregations write & adopt a Covenant that commits to transformation – "being" different (not "doing" things differently) as Christ's disciples.
- Events are held at one or more churches; responsibility for food / refreshments service is divided among the participating congregations.
- Each participating team contributes \$100 per event to help defray the costs of materials and the TM team travel expenses. For congregations in need, synod scholarships may be available.