

SYNOD MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS



NT-NL Congregational Vitality Team **Pastor Jeff Borgwardt, Team Leader**

During 2017 the New/Renewing ministry team has had a name transition to be consistent with the terminology used by the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA. We are now known as the Congregational Vitality Team. Although a name change sometimes seems like simply rearranging chairs, in this case, our team believes it is a significant change.

The focus of congregational vitality is on assisting congregations to be effective in their ministries in the lives of individuals, in the congregations, and in mission in the surrounding community. This is an ongoing process for all congregations, always, which is why our team believes that this is a significant change for our team and the congregations we work with in the synod. This focus of the team helps us to live into our synodical vision of being “in mission together.”

We live into this vision as a team by working with the revitalization, renewal, or redevelopment of existing congregations, as well as working with opportunities for new mission starts across our synod. Our team continues to work with several congregations in various stages of these processes. Our team members welcome a conversation, formally or informally, about what vitality means for you in the congregation where you are a member or where you serve as a leader.

As we have shifted to this focus on vitality, it also became clear that we needed to make a change in our team structure. We have divided our team into two groups of individuals, one of which is focused on the vitality of existing congregations, the other on the vitality of new mission starts. We will continue to be one team, meeting together for mutual support, Bible study, and the sharing ideas. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Congregational Vitality Team!

In early 2018, several of our team members attended an ELCA training event in Houston for Mission Developers and Redevelopers, for the purpose of being better able to support leaders who are called to those ministries. Additionally, team members also attended a Synodical Coaching training event held at Briarwood, so that we are better equipped to use coaching in our work, as it continues to be an effective way of guiding individuals and congregations to a place of health and vitality.

Our current team members include, Pastors Jeff Bergeron, Jeff Borgwardt, Doris Dupree Harris, Ernie Hinojosa, Yvonne Kiebler, Alicia Thompson-Summers, Neal White. Our staff liaison is Pastor Irma Bañales, DEM. We bid farewell and thank you to Pastor Brad Carroll for his service to our team, as he accepted a call to serve a congregation outside of NT-NL.

If you have questions, please contact any member of the team. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

In Christ’s service,
Pastor Jeff Borgwardt
Congregational Vitality Team Chair
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