

NTNL Congregational Vitality Team: Renewal Table 2019 Annual Report

The Renewal Table Seeks to 1) remind ministry partners to be faithful to their call as Lutheran Christians, 2) listen to congregations, assisting them to proclaim the Gospel and serve their communities, and 3) walk with congregations through the process of discovering and affirming their identity.

Our primary task in 2019, to attempt to achieve these objectives, was hosting and leading Discovering Hope seminars in several of our synodical conferences. These seminars are designed for congregations which have an average Sunday worship attendance of fewer than 50 people. Unfortunately, there are a significant number of congregations in our synod which fit that description. Fortunately, we have had a good response from pastors and congregational leaders, in terms of attendance at these seminars.

In June, we invited Pastor Nancy Nyland, DEM of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to lead our first Discovering Hope seminar at Shepherd of Life, Arlington for the Metroplex area conferences. While she was here, Pastor Nyland trained our team so that we could lead additional conferences in our synod. So, in September, our team led the second Discovering Hope seminar for the Conference Out West at Grace, Abilene. In February 2020 we led our third Discovering Hope seminar, hosted by Gloria Dei, Lubbock, for the Panhandle conference. We continue to encourage participants to utilize the tools and information shared to engage their congregations and communities.

In February, some of our team members joined others from across the ELCA for Anchor Church Training (hosted by Calvary, Richland Hills). The Anchor Church model is used to connect congregations together to share various resources in order to strengthen individual congregations and the ministry of the church as a whole in a particular geographic region.

Our team continues to seek to make connections with congregations, to support and encourage pastors and leaders in sharing the Gospel and connecting with the community. We encourage you to contact any of the team members if you have questions. Thanks to those who continue to serve on this team. Members include Pastors Alicia Thompson-Summers, Doris Dupree Harris, Joan Iker, Irma Banales (DEM), and PLM Madeline Richards.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff Borgwardt, Chair