

***Messiah Lutheran Church  
Council Retreat 2007***

07-08 September  
Rau-Wood Retreat

# Friday Agenda

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- Dinner (6:30) ● Retreat Goals
- Opening Devotion ● Dan
- Scott ● Messiah History (9:00)
- Opening Presentation ● Scott
- & Agenda (7:45) ● Evening Prayer
- Dan ● Scott
- Natural Church ● Social (10:00)
- Development
- Characteristics
- Bill

# Saturday Agenda

X – Cancelled Items    O – Added Item

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- Morning Prayer (8:00)
  - Scott
- Breakfast
- Saturday Agenda
  - Dan
- O - Discuss 5 Motivations
  - Scott
- Review 2006-07 Accomplishments
  - Dan
- Mission Focal Points
  - Small Groups
- Mission Focal Points
  - Large Group
- Break (10:30)
- X - Action Plan
  - Small Groups
- Lunch
- Action Plan
  - Large Group
- Break (2:00)
- X - Retreat Recap
  - Staci
- Sending Prayer (3:00)
  - Scott

## **Messiah Vision**

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God's People, Reaching Out to the  
Congregation, to the Community and to  
the World

## **Messiah Mission**

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The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

## **Retreat Goals**

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- Identify 1 or 2 mission focal points for the church for the next year
- Create an initial action plan to support those focal points
- Council Members get to know each other
- Relax

# **2006-07 Accomplishments vs Plan**

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- Long-Range Plan
- Improve Communication
- Expand Missionary Work
- Develop & Empower Lay Leadership
- Greater Involvement of Church Members

# Natural Church Development

## Characteristics 1

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- Empowering Church Leadership
- Gift-Oriented Ministry
- Passionate Spirituality
- Functional Structures
- Inspiring Worship Service
- Holistic Small Groups
- Need-Oriented Evangelism
- Loving Relationships

# **Natural Church Development**

## **Characteristics 2**

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- Use the Church's Strengths
- Use God's Gifts
- Enhance the Qualitative, Not Necessarily the Quantitative
- Better (choose the characteristic) Not More
- Provide a Set of Principles as Opposed to a Model to Follow

# Natural Church Development

## Characteristics 3

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- View the Relationship of People to the Church
  - Core – Church Leadership
  - Committed – Regular Attendees & Participants
  - Congregation – Remainder of Church Membership
  - Community – Local Population
  - Crowd – Everybody Else

# 5 Motivations for Church Participation 1

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- Commitment – Basic Faith in the Church’s Direction
- Challenge
- Compassion – Sympathy/Empathy
- Community – Sense of Social Belonging
- Reasonability – Return on Investment Approach

## **5 Motivations for Church Participation 2**

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- People tend to be driven by 2 of the 5 at any one time
- People tend to start up with a church and remain at the 'congregation' level based on a strong sense of Community and Compassion
- As the relationship matures, Commitment becomes a dominant factor

## **5 Motivations for Church Participation 3 – Attendees Top 2**

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- **Commitment – 6**
- **Challenge – 2**
- **Compassion – 4**
- **Community – 5**
- **Reasonability – 2**

# Mission Focal Points – 3 Year Horizon

## Small Group Discussion / Brainstorm

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- **Envigorate Congregation**
- **Local Outreach**
  - Community Participation (Habitat for Humanity/Meals on Wheels)
  - Reaching the Unchurched
- **World Outreach**
  - Regular *participation* from the local congregation
  - Bring the good news into the community & world
- **Expand Facilities**
  - Music Room
  - Sanctuary
  - Office Space
  - Classroom Space
- **Education of Congregation**
  - Empower for Outreach Ministry
  - Basic Lutheran Principles
  - Equip the Youth for the College Environment
- **Staffing Focus**
  - Youth Director
  - Associate Minister
- **Small Group Involvement**
  - For local outreach/ministry
- **Expand Worship Service**
  - Variety
  - People Served

# Mission Focal Point – 3 Year Horizon

## Local Outreach – Action Plan

**Retreat Follow-Up Items in Blue with responsible parties named in minutes.**

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- Adaptation of facilities and staff should support the mission focus on Local Outreach
- Focus on the Madison/Huntsville region/community – Messiah currently engages in many forms of local community ministry. The group generally agreed that:
  - Emphasis should be on ‘firing up the congregation’ for broader participation in the current efforts.
  - New outreach opportunities are more likely to succeed with an identified, passionate leader.
- Enablers
  - Educate the Congregation – (courses will continue to be offered regularly)
    - Course on Lutheran beliefs and principles
    - Course on Spiritual Gifts
  - Fix the ‘Time and Talents’ process
    - Use the Spiritual Gifts Inventory to Educate Members on Their Gifts
    - Provide Counseling on Opportunities to Participate

# Mission Focal Point – 3 Year Horizon

## Local Outreach – Action Plan

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- Support the Satellite Church
- Expanded Worship – Options for additional worship services to be discussed in regular council meeting
- Additional Staff
  - Re-evaluate need for office help in 2008
  - Recruit to make up for lost volunteer educational leadership for 2008-09 school year
- Improved Community Communication
  - Advertising
    - Look into new sign w/message capabilities subject to budget & Huntsville regulations
    - Create Messiah business cards for distribution by members
    - Investigate Direct mail campaign
    - Update Messiah brochure
    - Inform congregation on publicity procedures including Laura Peterson as 'Publicity Czar'
    - Investigate printing of T-Shirts to advertise Messiah presence at public events
  - Systematic publicity on 'current' activities
    - Continued endorsement of web site
- Improved Congregation Communication
  - Educate and Encourage members to give personal invitations to come to church
  - Ads?

# Parking Lot

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- **Physical Expansion of Messiah Facilities**
  - General understanding that expansion is in Messiah's future
  - No general agreement on what expansion will best support the mission
  - Timing of expansion is a factor, especially with planning for satellite church
  - Staffing to support an expanded church is a factor

## **Additional Discussion**

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- Pew Pad Use – Pastor should address more frequently as this tool helps to identify visitors for the church to engage.
- Current expanded facility usage by the community may be constrained by the church's insurance policy (example: use of the church for outside music instruction). Should the church consider different insurance (additional cost) to support community usage of the facility?

## **Follow-Up**

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- Sunday, 21 October, Immediately after 2<sup>nd</sup> service at Messiah