

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Urban/Suburban Context

Key elements of the work of the Department in 2009 include:

- Appreciative Inquiry – The Department determined to develop a cadre of diocesan persons with skills and knowledge to serve as consultants for growth and development to diocesan congregations. The advantages of such a program is that these persons will provide the consultation at no cost to the congregations – and since they would be clergy and lay members of the diocese they would be readily accessible and knowledgeable.

To implement this program the department sponsored four persons – Cindy Howard, Jason Lewis, Fred Mann, and John McCann, who participated in 30 hours of training in Appreciative Inquiry for Congregational Growth and Development. In addition, two priests, Bill McVey and Bill Fasel, took the training on their own. These six persons are eager to be of service to clergy and congregations throughout the diocese. Contact Archdeacon McCann in the diocesan office for more information.

To learn more about Appreciative Inquiry check out the site of the Rev. Rob Voyle, consultant and trainer at www.voyle.com.

- Emmaus Era Growth Awards are made annually by the Department to affirm and support congregations in an urban/suburban/metro context which have successfully addressed two key Emmaus Era goals: 1) growth in Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) and 2) growth in Baptized Members.

First Tier Awards are for congregations which had an increase in ASA in 2008 over 2007 and an increase in Baptized Members in 2008 over 2007. Second Tier Awards are for congregations which had an increase in either ASA or Baptized Members in 2008 over 2007 but not both.

In 2008 six congregations were recognized as First Tier Awardees; nine were Second Tier Awardees. This year the department is happy to report that 13 congregations are First Tier congregations and 6 are Second Tier. The department is encouraged by this significant increase in congregations in the First Tier and in the total number of congregations recognized.

First Tier Awardees are Resurrection, Blue Springs; St. Michael's, Independence; Trinity, Independence; All Saints, Kansas City; Redeemer, Kansas City; St. Andrew's, Kansas City; St. Mary's, Kansas City; St. Mary Magdalene, Kansas City; St. Peter's, Kansas City; St. Anne's, Lee's Summit; Grace, Liberty; St. John's, Springfield; and Christ, St. Joseph.

Second Tier Awardees are Good Shepherd, Kansas City; Grace and Holy Trinity, Kansas City; St. Paul's, Kansas City; St. Paul's, Lee's Summit; Christ Springfield and St. James', Springfield.

- Sponsored a one-day workshop on Appreciative Inquiry led by the Rev. Rob Voyle and held at St. Andrew's, Kansas City.
- Gave support to St. Mary Magdalene as that congregation enters the building phase of its development.
- Provided continued support for the placement of a newly ordained cleric in a growing congregation in Kansas City (St. Paul's.)
- Provided support for the redevelopment work being accomplished at St. Anne's, Lee's Summit
- Met with Interim Rector and Lay Leaders from St. Matthew's, Raytown, to receive report regarding the on-going plans for growth and development of the congregation. Provided support to St. Matthew's, Raytown, as it moves forward in implementing said plans.
- Reviewed and identified growth and development issues based on ASA and baptized member statics for years 2007 and 2008.
- Renewed the contractual relationship with Percept, the demographic company which provides up-to-date demographic and ethos information to the diocese and to congregations of the diocese

Respectfully submitted,
The Ven. John H McCann, Chair Pro Tem