

Preparing Your 2017 Ministry Plan—Group A

Name of Your Agency:

- Northwest District Connectional Ministries Council
- Board of Conference, Camp and Retreat Ministries
- Board of Church and Society
- Board of Discipleship
- Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
- Board of Laity
- Standing Committee on Parish Development
- Standing Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- Standing Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response
- Standing Committee on Mission Education
- Older Adult Council
- Young Adult Council
- Conference Council on Youth Ministries

1. State the primary purpose of your agency.

The primary purpose of the Northwest District Connectional Ministries Council is to equip, resource, and connect people in the local church in their work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. An essential element of our work involves clarifying and communicating God's vision for United Methodists in northwest Iowa, and we are in the midst of engaging in visioning work as a district.

2. After reviewing the Annual Conference's Strategic Priorities, describe your agency's plan for ministry in **creating world-transforming communities of faith** and **equipping transformational leaders**.

As we refine our vision and plan for accomplishing our common work as United Methodists and unique work as Christians in northwest Iowa, we believe our work in the area of "creating world-transforming communities of faith" will include:

A. Visioning: Build off our district visioning work and the conference-wide Spiritual Leadership Inc work to equip people in local churches to develop a clear, compelling, concise, and shared vision of how they will be a disciple-making, world-transforming church. Our strategy will include:

- a. A district-wide visioning day in September that includes a video and resources to be utilized at each church in the manner they deem most helpful.

- b. Utilizing clergy training events, clergy days apart, and charge conference to equip local churches to do visioning work.

B. Creating Healthier Relationships: fostering relationships with people inside and outside the church that reflect our personal relationship with God. Our strategy will include:

- a. Teaching and resources during the vision day that, which will be reinforced during charge conference that inspire people to strive for healthier relationships in the church.

Preparing Your 2017 Ministry Plan—Group A

b. Sharing inspiring stories of how intentional discipleship and small groups have transformed lives—especially from churches that have worked on this with the Healthy Church Initiative.

c. Working with church leaders to strategize how to build relationships with people outside the church in a way that builds off existing needs-based outreach.

d. A Conflict Transformation Skills workshop that shares the best practices for congregation-wide conflict resolution, especially inviting any church involved with the Healthy Church Initiative process.

C. The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) Process: a process for church revitalization, which will include:

a. HCI Workshops--Series 1--we will launch a new group in September 2017 for churches whose average worship attendance is 75 people or higher.

b. Healthy small Church Initiative (HsCI) Workshops--Series 1--we will launch a new group in October 2017 for churches whose average worship attendance is less than 75 people.

c. HCI Workshops--Series 2--any churches that are not ready for a consultation but wish to continue in the peer learning of the Healthy Church Initiative process--with a group starting in September 2017.

d. Consultations and Coaching--churches that have completed at least one series of workshops may choose to have a consultation, which is typically followed by 18-months of coaching.

e. HCI 2.0--for churches who have been through a consultation and coaching and wish to continue the momentum. The curriculum intends for churches to engage in peer learning in a narrowly focused area of ministry.

f. HCI 3.0--for churches who have been through a consultation and coaching and desire to create a new community of faith.

D. Partner with passionate local individuals, conference and denominational experts, and regional vibrant churches to establish a vision and plan for (a) new communities of faith, (b) new multicultural or ethnic communities of faith, and (c) creative realignments that provide a hopeful way forward for communities of faith in shrinking rural settings. Our plan will include:

a. Identifying and building relationships with people who have the interest, passion, and gifts for reaching people beyond existing local churches.

b. Working with conference leadership, Path 1 personnel, and the staff of Embrace UMC of Sioux Falls, The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area, Ginghamburg UMC near Dayton, Ohio, and BMZ church in Wisconsin (each of whom have proven plans of launching new communities of faith and revitalizing existing churches).

E. Sharing stories of our connection ministry that is supported through apportionments, special offerings, and the Thanksgiving Ingathering.

Additionally, we seek to do the work of “equipping transformational leaders” through the following means:

Preparing Your 2017 Ministry Plan—Group A

- A. The visioning work, relational focus, and emphasis on Healthy Church Initiative naturally require the equipping of transformational leaders.
- B. Clarify and communicate the place of regional laity experiences and training such as Walk to Emmaus, Lay Servant Training, and the School for Lay Ministry that complement the work of the local church.
- C. Utilize the Okoboji United Methodist Camp and Morningside College to build relationships. Specifically, our plan will include:
 - a. A confirmation retreat in October 2017 that we will open to people of other districts and conferences.
 - b. A Morningside College Day that connects with older youth and young adults that builds off the learnings from the inaugural event in 2016.
 - c. Utilizing the people and facilities of the camp and college for training events or our clergy days apart.

- 3. Outline your financial plan for supporting your ministry plan, including:
 - a. The cost of implementing your ministry plan, including a breakdown of those costs for each part of your plan

Note that we are requesting a significant increase in funds compared to our 2014, 2015, and 2016 levels, primarily because we are seeing a significant increase in participation in the Healthy Church Initiative. Many of the churches we currently have starting or re-engaging the process now will have a consultation in 2017.

Creating World-Transforming Communities of Faith:

A. Visioning (\$6,200 total)

- a. Visioning Day—media and postage costs \$ 200
 - b. Clergy Training Events—speaker and resources \$6,000
- (Supplemented by Registration fees [\$2000] and District Askings [\$2000])

B. Creating Healthier Relationships (\$1,250 total)

- a. Resources during Visioning Day Event \$ 0
 - b. Sharing Inspiring Stories \$ 0
 - c. Relational Outreach Partnerships \$ 0
 - d. Conflict Transformational Skills—training and resources \$1,250
- (Covered entirely by participation fees and using District Asking)

C. Healthy Church Initiative Process (\$19,200 total)

- a. HCI Workshops—Series 1—5 churches \$1,500
- (Supplemented by District Askings [\$1000])
- b. HsCI Workshops—Series 1—5 churches \$1,500
- (Supplemented by District Askings [\$1000])

Preparing Your 2017 Ministry Plan—Group A

c. HCI Workshops—Series 2—8 churches (Supplemented by District Askings [\$1600])	\$2,400
d. Consultations and Coaching—6 churches (Supplemented by Participation Fees [\$3600])	\$7,200
e. HCI 2.0—3 churches (Covered by District Askings [\$900])	\$ 900
f. HCI 3.0—3 churches (Covered by District Askings [\$900])	\$ 900
D. New Communities of Faith and Creative Realignments (\$1,000 total)	
a. Identifying and gathering passionate people (Covered by District Askings [\$1,000])	\$1,000
b. Work with conference and regional leaders	\$ 0
E. Sharing stories of our connection (\$ 0 total)	

Equipping Transformational Leaders

A. Building off of “creating world-transforming churches”	(\$ 0 total)
B. Clarify and Communicate regional experiences/training (\$ 500 total)	
C. Utilizing Camp and College relationships for events (\$4,800 total)	
a. Confirmation Retreat—80 youth x \$40/person (Utilize crowd-sourced funding [\$3,200])	\$3,200
b. Morningside College Day—40 youth x \$40/person (Utilize crowd-sourced funding [\$1600])	\$1,600
c. Utilizing the camp for training events—accounted for above	

Total Funding Request for 2017:	\$28,150
Amount Covered by Non-Apportionment Sources:	\$20,050
Remainder to be Covered by Apportionments:	\$8,100

- b. The amount of funding for your ministry plan that you are requesting from apportionments

To accomplish the ministry we believe we are called to do, we are requesting a total of \$8,150.

- c. How your plan directs resources to our common goals

Bullard's church lifecycle describes how "vision" and "relationships" are the keys to renewing existing churches and starting new ministries. We believe that helping local churches do both vision and relationships better will ultimately create better world-

Preparing Your 2017 Ministry Plan—Group A

transforming communities of faith. Additionally, the Healthy Church Initiative and our work around new ministries align with the conference priorities of new ministries.

Additionally, we have intentional plans to cultivate clergy and lay leadership across a variety of ages.

- d. How you will seek and utilize other sources of funding to support your ministry plan
The DCMC is open to utilizing district askings to fund some portion of the plan.
Additionally, we can seek individual donations to fund specific ministries. Finally, we could charge "fees for service" for specific events.
4. Looking at your Ministry Plans for 2015, 2016, and 2017, what are the goals/benchmarks/milestones that you are using/are planning to use to measure the progress and effectiveness of your ministry?
As we continue our visioning process, we will clarify a few critical measures to evaluation our progress and effectiveness. However, we have named the following measures in the past:
 - * Average worship attendance
 - * Number of churches involved in HCI
 - * Number of pastors acconnected to accountaibility groups, coaches, etc.
 - * Number of coaches serving within the district
 - * Number of churches with an intentional discipleship pathway
 - * Number of churches with lay servants,.
 - * Number of lay persons who have received lay servant training.
 - * Number of persons involved in mission trips and local mission projects.
 - * Amount of support given to mission work in local communities, the district, the conference, and the world.
 - * Record of stories of lives that have been transformed.
5. What changes are you making in your ministry based on your evaluations?
Based on evaluation of our ministries and feedback from people around the district, we (1) will move forward confidently with another district-wide visioning day, (2) will open our confirmation retreat to people outside the district, and (3) seek another format and/or location for a continuing ed event.
6. What other agencies, ministries, boards, partnerships, etc. will you be directly engaged with to support your ministry plan/purpose?
We will partner with Morningside College and the Okoboji United Methodist Camp as described above. Additionally, we must partner with the Leadership Development Ministers, CCMC, Parish Development, the Healthy Church Initiative Coordinating Team, and other districts to accomplish our HCI and church development goals. Finally, we need to establish a working relationship with the regional growing United Methodist congregations.
7. If your agency administers grants, please answer the following questions:
 - a. Please list all of the agencies, ministries, groups, etc. that received funds through your granting process in 2015, including the grant amounts.

Preparing Your 2017 Ministry Plan—Group A

Kids For Christ Children's Ministry (Sioux City, Crescent Park UMC) (Matt 25)	\$2,368.47
Food Fight 4 Kids (Sioux City, Wesley UMC) (Matt 25)	\$4,000
Henry Muller Hall (Matt 25)	\$4,000
Shesler Hall (Matt 25)	\$4,500
Weekend Food for Spalding (Sioux City, Grace) (Matt 25)	\$2,500
Seekers in Sneakers Children's Program (Sioux City, Riverside) (Matt 25)	\$2,500
After School Friends Program (Sioux City, Trimble) (Matt 25)	\$500
Justice For Our Neighbors (Matt 25)	\$4000
Worship in an African Context (Sioux City, First UMC) (District Asking)	\$5000

- b. Please state how your agency reviews, approves, and determines funding levels for each application.

We have a team of lay and clergy who meet twice a year to evaluate first the funding requests and secondly the mid-year and year-end reports. We have begun sending out pairs to conduct site visits upon receiving the year's requests. Additionally, we have added the requirement that in order to reapply, each ministry must submit mid-year and year-end reports.

In addition to distributing funds, we have made it a goal to be a clearinghouse of information about other funding sources available to our applicants. In line with our understanding our of role as DCMC and to be the best stewards of the funds available to us, we have connected our applicants with about other grants that are available throughout the connection. We've also made recommendations upon site visits about informal partnerships with other ministries to help reinforce the connection and to better use resources. For example, we were able to partner three of our applicants this year with other granting processes, allowing us to distribute an extra \$5000.

To help determine funding, we look at new ministries first and then we look at how many years the ministry has been funded.

- c. Are there any additional criteria used if an applicant has previously received funds from your agency?

Preparing Your 2017 Ministry Plan—Group A

In order to receive grants, they must have submitted the previous year's mid-year and year-end reports. If they do not submit the reports, they will not be eligible for that year.

- d. Please state how your agency evaluates the effectiveness of those ministries receiving funding and how that has influenced your ministry plan, the application form, and/or the review process.

We evaluate the effectiveness by looking at the year-end and mid-year reports. Also, by having site visits to see how the ministry is working first hand.

Ministry Plans are Due December 18, 2015 to felicia.coe@iaumc.org.