

The Ohio District

ONE Church MANY Partners
in Kentucky, West Virginia & Ohio

May 2008 update of our shared ministries

In Touch In Touch



New Candidates and Vicars

We welcome into the Ohio District Candidates Jeffrey Patterson (Zion, Willshire) and Michael Trombley (Associate, St John, Nottingham) from our Ft Wayne seminary, and Candidates Timothy Behnke (River of Faith mission, Waterville), Ryan Honeycutt (Associate, Redeemer, Cuyahoga Falls), and Richard Schneider (Associate, Emmanuel, Kettering) from our St Louis seminary. We pray that God will bless your ministry to God's people and that God will guard your travels to our District.

In addition, four vicars from the St Louis seminary will experience a year's training in our District. They are David Benning (Valley, Chagrin Falls), Michael Podeszwa (Christ, Cincinnati), Daniel Tews (Zion, Cincinnati), and Gary Timm (Trinity, Cleveland). We pray that God will bless your year of learning. You will be taught by four very capable pastors serving very fine

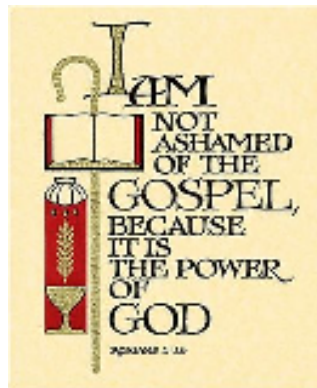
congregations.

I continue to be impressed with the quality of the recent graduates from both seminaries. Both Concordias are serious about training pastors suited for work in our changing culture. Feedback from congregations shows steady satisfaction with their skills and abilities.

The Call Process

Did you know that the average pastoral vacancy in our Synod is now 18 months long? Congregations become impatient with the process, believe me, I know! Dianna Ross once sang, "Can't Hurry Love" and I think the same is true with the Spirit's work in the calling process—it can't be hurried.

In fact, shortcuts can be harmful. If your church was well-served by a lengthy pastorate, the longer the vacancy, generally speaking, the better are the chances that your next pastor will enjoy a lengthy tenure, too. A vacancy is the perfect time for the congregation to re-evaluate its sense of mission and give a better response than, "We want a pastor just like our previ-



The Ohio District-LCMS exists to fulfill the Great Commission in ways that are faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions through;

- Healthy Workers
- Healthy Mission Outposts
- Healthy Partnerships

ous pastor." In some cases, I would recommend a congregation to consider going through the Transforming Congregations process before asking for a call list from me.

Congregational members have the right to nominate candidates for their congregation's consideration. But a word of caution: if the person nominated has been serving in his current parish for less than five years, I will not include him on the list (unless he has specifically indicated he needs to move). Just as you wouldn't want to lose a pastor after three or four years, so the congregation he is currently serving would not be happy to lose him either!

Your District Staff

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Serving the congregations, professional church workers and people through ecclesiastical supervision, call list preparation, pastoral encouragement, roster maintenance.



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In all aspects of this process, surround yourselves with prayer—prayer for discernment on the part of the call committee, prayer for patience on the part of the congregation, prayer for prospective candidates, prayer for me as I prepare your call list. "With the Lord begin your task, Jesus will direct it!"