

MAC REVISITED

A Guideline for CNH District Mission Action Councils

Revised October 2007

The Mission Action Councils have served well in promoting a distributed mission funding process and in identifying, evaluating and resourcing the missions within their areas. This has resulted in a greater awareness of “new day” mission realities which, in turn, has allowed the MACs to serve as a conduit for information and training.

As district dollars for mission work has decreased, the MACs have participated in an ongoing process of redefining their roles and the relationship among themselves, their Mission Counselor, the congregations, and the harvest fields.

Our focal points will be:

a. Covenant Congregations

The definition of a Covenant Congregation is as follows:

A Covenant Congregation is a congregation that will covenant with the CNH District and its MAC to plant a new ministry by 2017.

1. Church planters, for the most part, will be identified from congregations.
2. Distance education will be used to train church planters for certification.
3. All prospective missionaries will go through an assessment process.
4. The indigenous planters (or apostolic planter) will be identified by the congregation.
5. The planters will take basic and advanced mission planter training or its equivalent as offered by the CNH district, will be part of a collegial group, and will have a coach.
6. Congregations will self-identify the mission plant or mission field.

b. Transformation to Mission

The definition of “Transformation to Mission” is as follows:

Helping a congregation to become a growing church, healthy enough to birth new life in whatever way God intends. A congregation that agrees to the transformational process will be assessed by a trained team of consultants who will provide prescriptions for change. If the prescriptions are accepted, the District will then partner with the congregation to affect the change.

Also to be noted is the significant restructuring by Synod. Synod may provide additional grants in these two areas.

All of this leads us to suggest a reinterpretation of the ministry of our Mission Action Councils, as follows:

1. The Mission Action Councils will continue to work closely with the respective Mission Counselor to provide mission education and inspiration to congregations. They will also serve as advocates for their regions in developing effective ways to reach the lost and to enfold them in faith communities or new missions.
2. The MACs may divide themselves into smaller, more local entities to carry out these responsibilities.
3. The day-to-day administration of such education, inspiration, and networking will be the responsibility of the Mission Counselor. The MACs will define, in partnership with the MC, a strategy for transformation, mission education, inspiration, networking, funding, and prayer support.
4. Two primary models of mission planting will be considered for funding in CNH.
 - a. Apostolic Church Planting
(This planting model involves an identification of a mission field rather than a specific mission plant. An “apostolic missionary” is called to develop indigenous mission planters who will be trained as they minister. These indigenous planters will be unpaid. The planter will make use of church planting movement principles. The sponsoring congregation will be a Covenant Congregation and will qualify for grant support from the LCMS).
 - b. Daughter Church Planting
(This planting model involves the development of one or more satellite congregations. The mother church will develop a mission model that will replicate the DNA of the mother church and will make use of church planting movement principles. A paid missionary will be called once a core group has been established by the mother church. The mother church will be a Covenant Congregation and will qualify for grant support from the LCMS).
5. In addition to the above, the MACs will also be involved in the development of resources and prayer networks.