

Reimagining Church

What are the most pressing challenges your congregation is facing?

What might you learn from other congregations facing similar challenges?

How can we better engage the people in our neighborhood?

How do we form deep spiritual relationships when there are so many demands on our time?

How do we engage youth and young adults?

What does leadership need to look like in our congregation?

What does it mean to effectively be church today?

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin invites congregational lay leaders and rostered ministers to take a journey with us as we reimagine church in light of today's changing culture.

Reimagining Church is a Spirit-led journey in which we will engage the spiritual practices of listening, discerning, experimenting, and reflecting. We will wonder and learn about the deep challenges facing our congregations.

Congregation Action Teams of 4-6 lay people will utilize simple, small step, low-risk, holy experiments requiring little to no cost. Through these experiments we will learn how to live into God's promised future. Each Congregation Action Team will be accompanied by a coach as they take this journey of discovery!

Action Teams from participating congregations will gather together three times over the course of nine months. Together we will dwell in God's word, and share stories, ideas, and challenges so that we might learn from and support one another.

Pastors and deacons of participating congregations will engage in a parallel process that will help them address the challenges they face as rostered ministers leading congregations in a changing world. They, too, will gather for mutual support as well as sharing ideas, stories, and learnings of their experimental discoveries.

This is an exciting time to be the Church, as God calls us into the new reality of God's promised and preferred future! Join us for the Reimagining Church journey as we discover that future together!

Congregation Action Team Gathering Dates

Saturday, September 15, 9:00-3:00

Saturday, January 12, 9:00-3:00

Saturday, April 6, 9:00-3:00

Congregations interested in participating in Reimagining Church are invited to join in a web-based informational meeting on Thursday, May 31 at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Pastor Amy Engebose at amy.engebose@ecsw.org to receive a participation link!

Clergy/Deacon Gathering Dates

Saturday, September 15, 9:00-3:00

*Thursday, September 20, 9:00-noon

Saturday, January 12, 9:00-3:00

*Thursday, January 24, 9:00-noon

Saturday, April 6, 9:00-3:00

*Only clergy/deacons of participating congregations

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Action Team?

An Action Team consists of 4-6 lay people from a congregation. The work of the Action Team is to begin learning what it means for the church to be relevant in this changing culture.

How often do the action teams meet?

There will be three gatherings of Congregation Action Teams over the course of nine months (September 15, January 12, and April 6). Individual action teams will meet as needed between the gatherings to engage the missional experiment they identified at the gathering, as well as reflect upon their learnings, interact with their coach, and communicate their learnings with the congregation. This journey is ongoing with Action Teams invited to explore their learnings by engaging missional experiments and sharing their gained insights with others in the congregation. A new cycle of gatherings hosted by the Synod will begin each September. Action Teams may choose to participate in more than one cycle of Reimagining Church so that they may continue to discern where God is leading.

Do team members need to participate in all three gatherings?

In order for your Reimagining Church journey to be fruitful, it is important for all members of your Action Team to be at each gathering. However, we know that occasionally there will be scheduling conflicts and someone may not be able to participate. If a critical mass of the Action Team is unable to attend all of the gatherings, it is best for your congregation to wait until another cycle begins when your Action Team can commit to all three of the gatherings.

What is the cost?

The cost is \$45 per person for one entire cycle (three gatherings) of the Reimagining Church journey. Participation is by registration only! Please register for the 2018-2019 Reimagining Church cycle by June 15. Registration forms can be found online at ecsw.org.

How are pastors and deacons involved in the Reimagining Church journey?

Clergy and deacons do not serve on the Action Team, but are to support and encourage the work of congregation's Action Team. Rostered ministers will attend the Action Team gatherings (September 15, January 12, April 6). Clergy and deacons also participate in the Rostered Minister gatherings (Sept. 25, Jan. 24 and April 6) to identify challenges they face as leaders and develop experiments to address those challenges.

What is the role of coaches?

Each Action Team will be assigned a lay person to be their coach who will accompany the Action Team, helping them to move forward with their experiments. Teams will meet monthly with their coach either in person or via phone/video.

How can action teams prepare for the Reimagining Church journey?

- Pray for God's guidance and insights.
- Reflect together: Where do we see God at work?
- Meet at least twice over the summer months (materials will be provided by the synod)
- Read *"The Agile Church"* by Dwight Zscheile