

## **Vivid Description for the Future of the FLGA**

***“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15***

The people of the Florida-Georgia District are compelled by Christ’s love to connect the lost, confused and hurting to Jesus, who is the true source of peace, hope and life!

As those saved by grace, we must share the message of salvation. Our focus is on empowering congregations to help individuals discover the hope and joy of salvation. Our task is to ignite the disciple-making potential within our congregations, so that all people experience the life-changing love of Jesus.

Corporate worship and vital community is foundational. We love our neighbors by reaching out to people where they are, building relationships, and discipling others. We are Alongsiders, called to live urgently, reflecting Christ’s love in our daily lives, so that the hope and joy of salvation overflow into the world around us.

### **Beyond-the-Horizon Vivid Description (Full)**

For more than 75 years, God has been on a mission through the people and ministries of the Florida-Georgia District. From the District’s inception, we have sought to respond to the working of the Spirit to fulfill the Lord’s command to “go and make disciples”. This faithful commitment to living as His witnesses has spurred on our district to grow from 22 founding missional congregations to nearly 200 congregations with more than 35,000 people today.

Today, just as 75 years ago, many people are living without hope and joy. And, perhaps even more urgently, people are living separated from God for eternity. As those captured by the grace of God, we must remember that our faith is for sharing so more people can experience the Lord’s salvation. When we fail to share our relationship with Christ, we fail to love our neighbors and abandon them to a life separated from God. And that cannot stand.

Moving forward, we will continue to equip, empower, and engage the congregations and the individuals of the Florida-Georgia District. And as we do, we see the District’s role in this season being focused on equipping congregations to help individual believers become reacquainted with the hope of their salvation and the joy of life with God.

Between now and 2030 our greatest opportunity as a district is to reactivate the evangelical potential of the disciples already in our congregations so that every niece and neighbor, every brother and business associate can experience the life-giving salvation of our God. We are a people compelled by Christ’s love to see those lost, confused and hurting in this dark day find the One source of peace, hope and true life that is unchanging!

In the coming years, corporate worship and vital community in our congregations will remain foundational in our life and mission together. Yet it’s not all about us. As the Church, the “called-out ones”, greater focus will surround relationships and engaging our communities “out” where people are. This will be evident as we, the people of the FLGA District, live as along-siders – befriending and discipling people one-on-one. And it will be seen as we raise up ministries that help every congregation and individual live as Christ’s hands and presence to those living outside of God’s family.

The message of God’s love is for us and all people. As true followers of Christ, we are called to live daily in such a way that reflects the urgency of our mission. In 1948 God was on a mission to reach the people of Florida and Georgia, and today, He continues His mission through all who are the FLGA District! Empowered by the Spirit, the churches of our District will be places where the amazing & undeserved gifts of God are not for us alone, but where the hope and joy of salvation continually overflow through us into the lives of the people we see every day.

# Critical Ministry Targets

Christian Identity - Healthy Ministry - Engage Community - Shared Purpose

## 1. Cultivate the Christian Identity of Every Disciple

*We will equip, empower, and engage workers and lay leaders to help individuals fully understand their Christian identity as disciples created, loved, redeemed, and sent by God.*

- Define living as a disciple who makes disciples
- Share the definition with workers and lay leaders
- Help congregations equip members for continual growth in living out their Christian vocation
- Gather and share examples of congregations and members living as disciples

## 2. Support Church Workers and Leaders in Healthy Ministry

*We will equip, empower and engage workers and lay leaders in healthy ministry practices for self and others.*

- Help congregations understand the relationship between worker health and effective ministry
- Connect congregations with resources and ministry partners that promote holistic wellness for workers
- Provide training and resources for workers and lay leaders for their ministry roles

## 3. Help Congregations Engage Their Communities

*We will equip, empower, and engage workers and lay leaders to move beyond the church doors and become actively involved in their communities.*

- Promote a process for congregations to understand the demographics of their community and assess community needs and assets
- Guide congregations in aligning congregational strengths with community needs and assets to evaluate opportunities to serve the community
- Help congregations identify and act on opportunities for multiplication
- Collect and share stories of congregations' work in their communities

## 4. Foster a Sense of Shared District Identity

*We will equip, empower, and engage workers and lay leaders to align Florida-Georgia District congregations around the God-given culture of disciple-making.*

- Promote and celebrate the disciple-making culture of the Florida-Georgia District
- Establish consistent language in communication to congregations and members
- Promote District values through conferences and all publications
- Engage and listen to congregations that are not fully aligned with the culture of the District



# Ministry Targets

The people of the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS are compelled by Christ's love to connect the lost, confused and hurting to Jesus, who is the true source of peace, hope and life!



## Christian Identity

*Cultivate the Christian Identity of Every Disciple*

We will equip, empower, and engage workers and lay leaders to help individuals fully understand their Christian identity as disciples created, loved, redeemed, and sent by God.



## Healthy Ministry

*Support Church Workers and Leaders in Healthy Ministry*

We will equip, empower and engage workers and lay leaders in healthy ministry practices for self and others.



## Engage Community

*Help Congregations Engage Their Communities*

We will equip, empower, and engage workers and lay leaders to move beyond the church doors and become actively involved in their communities.



## Shared Purpose

*Foster a Sense of Shared District Identity*

We will equip, empower, and engage workers and lay leaders to align Florida-Georgia District congregations around the God-given culture of disciple-making.



## MISSION

The Mission of the Florida-Georgia District is to serve, assist, and encourage congregations in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

## VISION

People of the Florida-Georgia District are equipped, empowered, engaged...connecting people to Jesus.