

MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
Rural Churches – Rural Communities
2007 – 2010 Strategic Plan

Program Mission/Purpose Statement

To build the capacity of congregations to work together and strengthen their local communities.

Program Vision Statement

To experience Christian Unity in local communities, and throughout rural Minnesota.

Program Alignment Statement --- alignment with MCC mission

The mission statement of the Minnesota Council of Churches is:

To manifest the unity of the body of Christ, and to build the common good in the world

Christian Unity is experienced at many levels on a continuum from cooperation to deep *koinonia*. Many rural community churches, and their members, currently experience their one-ness in Christ through hosting community worship services (e.g., Thanksgiving, Good Friday), and others by serving low-income families through hunger, housing, and other anti-poverty ministries.

The Minnesota Council of Churches believes that rural communities can, and should thrive as quality places to live, work, raise families, educate children, retire, and experience the fullness of our unity.

Strengthening existing ministries, exploring ways to build new relationships, and establishing new venues that participate in the Unity of the Body of Christ is the way in which **Rural Churches – Rural Communities** will further advance the Minnesota Council of Churches mission.

Outcome

The capacity of churches in six (6) communities will be strengthened both in understanding and experiencing their relatedness, and in serving their communities.

Three Year Program Goals

Convene two, two-day regional conferences and trainings per year on capacity building.

Day One – local and judicatory leaders participate in series of four workshops on capacity building topics of most interest and concern to them

Day Two – local and judicatory leaders participate in a series of workshops and dialogues on exploring models for shared ministries (e.g., call process, worship services, community ministries)

Minnesota Council of Churches and member judicatories host round table

discussions with community and religious leaders to identify topics, presenters, and workshop format

Utilize technology to link local religious leaders with one another directly across Minnesota

Timeframes

2008

Convene and facilitate round tables in St Cloud Area and Mankato Area to identify topics, presenters, and format

Host two conferences: St Cloud Area and Mankato Area

Identify topics of most interest to religious leaders in rural communities for on-going communication with partners throughout Minnesota (e.g., aging, alcohol and drug addiction, immigration, generational shifts/changes, economic development, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Mission Trips, Immigration, Stewardship, Hunger, Food and Nutrition, Youth Ministries)

Explore most effective and most likely to be used means of linking rural leaders across the state (e.g., listserv, bulletin board, Email list)

2009

Convene and facilitate round tables in Willmar Area and Moorhead Area to identify topics, presenters, and format

Host two conferences: Willmar Area and Moorhead Area

Launch technology tool that will facilitate communication between religious leaders across Minnesota Council of Churches

2010

Convene and facilitate round tables in Duluth Area and Grand Rapids Area to identify topics, presenters, and format

Host two conferences: Duluth Area and Grand Rapids Area

Monitor and update technology tool

Budget

Year One:

Income

General Income	\$24,000
MN Church Foundation - Special	
Other Grants/Contributions	\$30,000
Contracts	
Conference Registration	\$5,000
RC-RC Income Subtotal	\$59,000

Expenses

Personnel: Executive Staff (.05 IDP)	\$5,573
Program Staff Salaries	\$8,900
Programs Staff Payroll Taxes	\$745
Programs Staff Benefits	\$3,710
Travel	\$850
Consultants	\$22,500
Telephone	\$174
Office Supplies	\$75
Postage	\$350
Printing and Copying	\$650
Books/Subscriptions/Memberships	\$500
Training and Conferences	\$500
Meeting Expenses	\$5,752
Program Management Services	\$0
Administrative Services	\$6,670
Fundraising	\$1,787
Rent	\$397
RC-RC Expense Subtotal	\$57,133
RC-RC Net Income/Expense	\$0

Annual Reports

2007 was a year of Listening Sessions, and Strategic Planning, so there is no 2007 Annual Report. Future Annual Reports will be based upon the Annual Work Plans developed that fulfill the Strategic Plan outlined above.

List of people to be involved

Rural Churches – Rural Communities Committee:

7 to 9 Religious Leaders from Rural Communities
5 to 7 Rural Community Leaders
2 MCC Staff

Conference Planning Group:

5 Rural Religious Leaders
3 Educators/Trainers
3 Members of MCC Program Commission

2 MCC Staff