



**FOR YOUR  
CONSIDERATION**  
January 2017

“*For Your Consideration*” is an occasional information piece about people in mission. Its purpose is to help connect people with other people as they fulfill their ministry. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute as appropriate for your congregational setting. Suggestions for future articles may be sent to:

[Bob.Dealey@csis-elca.org](mailto:Bob.Dealey@csis-elca.org)

## **Strengthening Ties With Ministry Partners**

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

A three-fold cord is not quickly broken.”

--*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12b*

As members of the body of Christ, our ministry to and with each other happens in community. The following questions are offered as a means of helping you to reflect on ways to strengthen ties with ministry partners:

### **Within the Congregation:**

- How well do congregational committees/teams/task forces work together in order to carry out God’s mission in the local community and the world?
- Who are partners within the congregation that work cooperatively to carry out God’s will?
- What can congregational leaders do to work together more effectively with each other?

### **Within the Local Context:**

- What kinds of working relationships does your congregation have with other congregations in the local community?
- With what local community organizations and agencies could your congregation partner as it carries out its ministry?
- What one (or two) things could your congregation do to increase the impact it could have within the local community if it partnered with other local groups?

### **Within the Conference:**

- With what other congregations do you partner to do ministry (e.g. confirmation classes, youth group, Vacation Bible School, etc.)?
- What resources/assets does your congregation have that it can share with other congregations?
- How does working together with other congregations help you to understand the cooperative nature of the Church?

### **Within the Synod:**

- In what ways do your congregation and the synod interact with each other in order to fulfill God’s mission and ministry?
- Within your congregation, how is the synod perceived as a “ministry partner”?
- Describe a time when your congregation was involved in a ministry of the synod. What did you do together?

### **Within the ELCA:**

- Which ELCA ministries does your congregation help support?
- About which ELCA programs/ministries is your congregation excited?
- What could the ELCA do to help your congregation grow and develop in its ministry?

-more-

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Does your congregation include on its letterhead, newsletter, bulletin, etc. that it is a congregation of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod and/or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?
2. In the weekly Prayer of the Church, does your congregation regularly include petitions for “bishops”, “other congregations” and “ministries of the synod and/or ELCA”?
3. In what partnership ministry opportunities do you think your congregation would be willing engage in an effort to strengthen its ministry?