

MISSIONAL ALIGNMENT

The Missional Alignment Community is to:

1. Discuss the latest missional alignment concepts—stirring the team’s thinking through reading books and exploring web-related resources together.
2. Discuss opportunities and solutions for missional alignment in our cultural setting.
3. Discuss issues derived from district cohorts concerning missional alignment.
4. Explore together missional alignment for congregations in our cultural setting.
5. Focus a segment of the National Conference gathering to missional alignment—providing a district or national level speaker as requested.

The Community is made up of four active committees:

Faith & Doctrine Committee

The committee has been asked to study a number of important subjects and consider preparing statements which would be of help to congregations and some of our other Communities and Committees. These include:

- A statement concerning public discourse/protest; or to put it more positively, a statement on civility in discourse, both public and private.
- A position paper on what is meant when we say “the Gospel” to be used by the Board of Examiners when talking with candidates seeking credentials, if needed.
- A position paper on what is meant when we say “the Mission of God” to be used by the Board of Examiners when talking with candidates seeking credentials, if needed.

Heritage Committee

Progress is being made toward the planned renovation of the Church Center basement and the relocation of the Archives of the EC Church. Two stages of work are planned: the first stage, in which the basement will be renovated and the archives will be relocated as-is; and a second stage in which current shelving will be replaced by moveable shelving with larger capacity. Funding sources for the latter phase have tentatively been identified.

A task force is being organized to draft scripts for one or more series of videos to replace the old *Streams of Influence* video. These new videos will be able to be used in membership classes and other contexts.

Preparations for the publication of an English translation of Karl Heinz Vogt's book *Jakob Albrecht: Ein Ziegelbrenner Wird Bischoff* are underway. The most recent draft of the translation will be secured and reviewed by a native German speaker, after which sources familiar with relevant publishers will be consulted.

A process is to be formulated, after review of current professional standards, for collecting, processing, and preserving the official correspondence of denominational leaders (electronic and otherwise).

Nexus

Nexus continues to pursue opportunities to activate the E.C. Church's fifth core value of being united in the Body of Christ. In October, we hosted our fourth annual Clergy Fellowship Gathering, a time of refreshment, conversation, and prayer (and eating) to which we invite non-E.C. clergy and leaders. There have been repeated requests from our guests to increase the frequency of these gatherings. As Nexus exists not only to reach out to other Christian traditions but to promote unity within our own denomination, we have begun to discuss ways of intentionally fostering unity among our E.C. brothers and sisters. Nexus members continue to interact with local ministeriums and multi-denominational service organizations, and we encourage all E.C. pastors and lay leaders in their similar ventures. Those who are interested in joining Nexus should contact Gene Stevenson.

Prayer Mobilization Team

During the past 8 to 9 months the PMT has been working on a new strategy to mobilize prayer throughout the 3 regions of our conference. We have implemented what we call SWAT teams, which stands for Spiritual Warfare Advance Teams. A SWAT team consists of volunteer pastors and lay people who are willing to go to a church that is dealing with spiritual warfare issues to pray for them and with them.

So far, we have conducted SWAT gatherings at the Rosedale Church, the Union Salem Church, the Zion Church in Annville, and the Williams Valley Church. Each SWAT gathering is designed to meet the specific needs of the church as requested by the pastor. The gathering at the Williams Valley church included pastors from other churches in the Anthracite District.

We are currently working with the Allegheny District to set up a district-wide SWAT gathering and we have had some discussion about setting up a satellite PMT team for the purpose of planning future SWAT gatherings in the district; encouraging more congregational prayer, and using PMT resources [or other commercially available resources] to develop the overall prayer life of the churches in that district.

We are also in the process of planning SWAT gatherings in the Susquehanna District at the East Berlin Church, the Mt. Joy Church, and the Rosedale Church. We will be encouraging the District pastors and their prayer warriors to come to each of these SWAT gatherings.

We are continually looking for more pastors and lay prayer warriors to join the PMT to help us in this effort to mobilize prayer throughout our National Conference. We hope to be able to do more SWAT gatherings in the Great Lakes Region as those opportunities present themselves and to set up new satellite PMT teams if a particular district or region would find it helpful to do so. Finally, this process is not perfected; we are learning as we go.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Bruce D. Hill