



Five Ministry Resource Areas

Here are the five areas of ministry that we believe will be the focal point for most congregational Shift efforts along with some possible shifts that might be pursued in each area.

Community Engagement

- What are you doing within your local community that is energizing, life giving and meaningful for you? Is there a way to grow, deepen or shift that work to include “non-members?”
- Is there a local need that your congregation’s joy might connect with and help to fulfill?
- Consider a prayer drive or walk. Spend 30 minutes driving or walking around the area of your congregation or your community. Pray for the community as you drive or walk around. Invite God to show you a place of need or potential engagement.

Justice Ministries

- Identify a social justice issue that folks in your congregation are passionate about that you either are already working on or would like to work on. What is a possible next step with this issue?
- Some examples of justice Issues being worked on in the Wisconsin Conference include: Environmental Justice and Climate Change, Immigration, GLBTQ inclusion and Open and Affirming, Break the Silence Sunday

Leadership Development

- Consider a retreat for the leaders in your congregation to work on leadership in the congregation
- Connect the pastor with a coach either through the conference or some other entity
- Send some people to lay academy or consider the Five Practices Program with the conference
- Read a book on leadership with your council/leadership body. Consider books that discuss the evolving nature of leadership in today’s world

Faith/Spiritual Formation

- Explore multi-generational approaches to faith formation. Numerous resources and ideas are available at www.vibrantfaith.org
- Imagine life after Sunday School and/or confirmation and talk with a few congregations who are venturing into this uncharted territory
- Invite someone from the Conference’s Faith Formation team to talk with you about resources, models, curriculum and ideas. Contact Tisha Brown (tbrown@wcucc.org) or Lisa Hart (lhart@wcucc.org) for a recommendation
- Send some people to lay academy and encourage them to bring what the encounter there back to your congregation

Alternative/Fresh Models for Ministry

- Read “Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership” by Dan Hotchkiss or some other book about effective governance in today’s congregations with your council and implement some of the strategies and approaches outlined there.
- Have a conversation with your Associate Conference Minister about alternate staffing models that might be more affordable for your congregation long term.
- Consider what it might look like to be a faith community without a building