



What will we learn and experience at the GiFT workshops?

INSPIRATIONAL WORSHIP

Word and Sacrament are central to who we are as Lutheran Christians – these Gifts of God for the People of God will be the engine and the impulse that drives the whole renewal process.

EXPLORING FAITH PRACTICES

Learn how to combine the tools of the 21st century with the tried and true ancient practices of the church to deepen faith, strengthen commitment and re-discover purpose.

TELLING OUR STORY

Discover your personal and your congregation's faith story and how your story can reshape your community.

RE-ROOTING IN COMMUNITY

Learn about the practices and procedures that help congregations develop relationships in their surrounding community and discover how to serve the neighbor in new and exciting ways.

LEADING THROUGH CHANGE

Change is hard – but essential for the church to grow. Learn how to lead through change calmly and confidently.

DISCOVERING GIFTS AND ASSETS

Congregations discover and cherish their God-given gifts as they use them to serve the neighbor and follow Jesus.

PRINCIPLES AND PLANS

Teams learn the basic principles of congregational renewal and develop a plan for moving toward a new future for their congregation.

TEAM BUILDING AND SUPPORT

Members leave the retreat as a well-formed team that knows where it can find support for the exciting plans they are bringing home.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Pastor (Sr. Pastor in multiple staff settings) or Rostered Leader plus 4-5 lay leaders. Lay leaders should be people whose other church commitments are such that they will be able to give most of their church-related service to this process.

WHAT KIND OF CONGREGATIONS?

- *Rural* congregations who want to re-discover a sense of purpose, excitement and mission
- *Town or city* congregations who have awakened to a new reality around them (new neighbors, changed neighborhood, a different world!)
- Congregations ready to take a bold step forward in God's mission
- Congregations who wonder about their long-term future

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

- Most of the cost of this training is covered by the South Dakota Synod, thanks to your mission support.
- Congregations pay for:
 - \$75 per congregation registrations for all four workshops. (Scholarships available, based on need)
 - A free will offering will be taken for lunches at workshops 2-4.
 - Approx. \$100.00 per month for the Coach -- plus travel expenses – if applicable.

WHEN AND WHERE?

- **Workshop 1: August 21-22** (Brookings) – “Listening to God”
Discovering God's unfailing purpose for our congregation and life together
Friday 6:00 pm – Saturday at 4:00 pm
- **Workshop 2: October 2** (Location TBD) - “Listening to Each Other”
Discovering the joys, struggles, passions and talents of the people God has given us for ministry together.
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- **Workshop 3: January 16** (Location TBD) - “Listening to our Community”
Discovering the real hopes and hurts of our community and how God is calling us to serve together.
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- **Workshop 4: April 16** (Location TBD) - “Moving Forward in God's Mission”
The path to vitality and growth in mission and ministry together.
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Register Now on the synod website at www.sdsynod.org/gift-registration.

Questions?

Contact Pastor Bill Tesch at btesch@sdsynod.org or 605-351-8098.