

In the fall of 2019, the South Dakota Synod engaged in an intentional listening and learning process.

Here is a brief summary of the results:

What gives you joy?

- Music
- Multi-generational ministry opportunities
- Purposeful gatherings
- Purposeful volunteering
- The Gospel

What keeps you up at night?

- Economic hardships
- Polarization in our society
- Mental Health
- Fear for the future of "the Church"

How do you envision your relationship with the synod staff?

- Resources
- Relationships
- Programs
- Communication
- Faith formation

"Fitting who we are into pews made for who we were."

- Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn, Care Event



These results shape our strategic vision and mission.

Why even be "synod?"

We are synod because we are called to journey together in Christ. - Luke 24:13-35

How will we journey together in Christ?

- **Relating** with intentionality
- **Networking** across the church
- **Equipping** leaders for ministry
- **Sharing** leadership

With confidence in Christ's Love for All.

Let's imagine every moment as a classroom, an opportunity to learn, grow, adapt, and lean into the vision God has for the church of today and tomorrow. - Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

What we do together:

- **Intentional Accompaniment**
 - In transitional times for ministry sites and leaders
 - through the Rural Liaison
 - through disaster response
 - through a West River Liaison
 - digital sermon resources
 - Digital Ministry Task Force
- **Networking Across the Church**
 - First peer mentor groups
 - regular Zoom gatherings for lay and rostered leaders
 - connecting with our ministry partners
 - J-Term practica with Augustana University and Wartburg Seminary
 - Rural strategy conversations
- **Equipping Leaders for Ministry**
 - "A Life of Faith" video series
 - E-learning and resource hub
 - Story Junction Pilot Project with LEAD
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Sprinkles of Grace grants for early childhood ministry
- **Sharing Leadership**
 - opportunities to serve on synod committees and task forces
 - permission-giving leadership

