



At the beginning of Bishop Hagmaier's first term as bishop, 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

These results shaped our strategic vision and mission over the last six years and will continue to do so over the next six.

Why even be "synod?"

We are synod because it unites congregations together in shared mission, mutual support, and collective witness, so that we can do God's work in the world more faithfully and effectively than any of us could alone. In short, 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.

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

- Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn, Care Event

"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

