

## **Congregational Development Small Town and Rural Context**

Rt. Rev. Sir and Delegates:

This is my final report as Chair of this Committee.

Allow me to begin this report exactly as I did last year by listing the members of the Committee. They are: Cathy Cox, Cheryl Moon, William Fasel, Harold Kost, Mickey Simnett, Channing Horner, Douglas Johnson, Dave Williams, Anne Kyle, William McVey and Marty Byer. I list the Committee members first because of the extraordinary work they have done throughout the five years I have chaired the Committee.

One of the programs of which the Committee and I are most proud is the Visioning Workshop developed under the direction of The Rev. Virginia Brown. This workshop focuses exclusively on a congregations' strengths and gifts rather than upon shortcomings and problems. The workshop takes four hours and is best conducted on a Saturday. I invite congregations to inquire further about having a Visioning Workshop by calling me at 417.505.0702 or by sending an email to [michaelrkyle@aol.com](mailto:michaelrkyle@aol.com).

Another aspect of the work of the Committee is to encourage new ministries of outreach and membership development. This past summer these grants were awarded to constituent congregations:

St. John's, Neosho

Support for outreach programs providing personal care items for students.

Shepherd-of-the-Hills, Branson

Assistance in providing clergy presence.

St. Matthew's, Ozark

Assistance in providing clergy presence.

Christ Church, Lexington

Assistance in the development of a children's choir.

Christ Church, Booneville

Funding for a Youth Program being developed.

Calvary, Sedalia

Assistance in funding a summer children's program.

All Saints', West Plains

Support for an outreach program to the MSU-West Plains Single Parent Resource Center housed in the church rectory.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Michael R. Kyle, Chair