

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Urban/Suburban Context

Key elements of the work of the Department in 2010 include:

- Appreciative Inquiry – The Department sponsored a one-day conference with The Rev. Rob Voyle on Appreciative Inquiry in May at St. Andrew’s Church, Kansas City. 40 persons from 12 congregations participated – a significant increase from the 2009 conference. The Department is planning a major conference with Rob Voyle in 2011. Bringing the “expert” to the diocese enables congregational leaders to access this resource without having to travel to a far-flung event outside the diocese. Part of the planning for 2011 will be to design an event with both a southern deanery and a KC Metro area component.

The four members of the Department who have completed 30 hours of training in Appreciative Inquiry -- Cindy Howard, Jason Lewis, Fred Mann, and John McCann, as well as two priests, Bill McVey and Bill Fasel who completed the training on their own, continue to offer to provide consultation, lead vestry retreats, and work with congregations as requested in support of congregational growth and development. The advantages of such a program is that these persons will provide the consultation at no cost to the congregations. And since they would be clergy and lay members of the diocese they would be readily accessible and knowledgeable.

Contact Archdeacon McCann in the diocesan office for more information.

To learn more about Appreciative Inquiry check out the site of the Rev. Rob Voyle, consultant and trainer at www.voyle.com.

- Emmaus Era Growth Awards are made annually by the Department to affirm and support congregations in an urban/suburban/metro context which have successfully addressed two key Emmaus Era goals: 1) growth in Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) and 2) growth in Baptized Members.

1st Tier Awards are for congregations which had an increase in ASA in 2009 over 2008 and an increase in Baptized Members in 2009 over 2008. Second Tier Awards are for congregations which had an increase in either ASA or Baptized Members in 2009 over 2008 but not both.

Nine congregations met 1st Tier Award criteria: Blue Springs, Resurrection; Carthage, Grace; Independence, St. Michael’s, Independence, Trinity; Kansas City, St. Paul’s; Lee’s Summit, St. Paul’s; Raytown, St. Matthew’s; Springfield, Christ, and Springfield, St. John’s

Nine congregations met 2nd Tier Award criteria: Joplin, St. Philip’s; Lee’s Summit, St. Anne’s; Liberty, Grace; Kansas City, Grace and Holy Trinity; Kansas City, Good Shepherd; Kansas City, St. Mary’s, Kansas City, St. Mary Magdalene; Kansas City, St. Peter’s and Springfield, St. James’.

- The Department meets on a regular basis with leaders from congregations receiving growth and development grants to assist those congregations in sharpening their goals, developing

with them the criteria for grant continuation based on the congregation's strategic plan, and the achievement of specific growth and development targets as agreed upon, and providing means for on-going reporting and accountability. Congregations receiving such grants in 2010 are:

St. Matthew's, Raytown
St. Augustine's, Kansas City
St. Mary's, Kansas City

- Provided support for St. Mary Magdalene as that congregation completed the building phase of its development.
- Provided support for the on-going redevelopment work being accomplished at St. Anne's, Lee's Summit
- Reviewed and identified growth and development issues based on ASA and baptized member statics for years 2009 and 2010.
- Renewed the contractual relationship with Percept, the demographic company which provides up-to-date demographic and ethos information to the diocese and to congregations of the diocese

Respectfully submitted,
The Ven. John H McCann, Chair Pro Tem