

Experiment: Topeka District Local Church Goals

The Topeka District Strategy Team has designed an experiment which seeks to engage and equip local church leaders to help their congregations take the next faithful step in the mission field. This experiment is to share possible goals and strategies which local churches may adopt for 2019 in preparation for their charge conferences this fall. They are organized around the themes for our annual conference gatherings. You may choose one or more of these goals, along with strategies that make sense for your congregation.

Know God

Goal: Improve our worship experience

We expect worship to be transformational.

- We will share a congregational conversation about worship, including:
 - What is worship?
 - Why do we worship?
 - How do we do worship?
- We will identify and train worship guests to visit other congregations and provide feedback.
- We will receive and respond to feedback about worship offered by trained worship guests from other congregations.

Proclaim Christ

Goal: Increase connection in our church and community

We do more together than we do separately.

- We will share information about our events with other local churches.
- We will show up to the events of other local churches.
- We will participate in district wide-events, beyond UMW.
- We will promote district opportunities.
- We will participate in our Network.
- We will plan, promote, and participate in a district mission trip.
- We will coordinate discipleship opportunities (classes, studies, etc.) with other local churches.

Goal: Start Fresh Expressions, new lay-led faith communities

We will reach new people for Christ.

- We will attend training offered by conference in February.
- We will identify group to reach.
- We will equip laypersons to lead group.
- We will start the Fresh Expression.

Serve Others, especially the Poor

Goal: Strengthen children and youth ministry

We care about local families and seek to share faith with the next generation.

- We will have Safe Gatherings certified volunteers.
- We will promote and participate in a Network or District youth event.
- We will create and host a Network or District youth event.
- We will promote and participate in a mission event for youth.
- We will plan and promote “memory moments” for children and youth, to help build connections between students and faith communities.
- We will create a partnership with a local elementary school.
- We will expand our partnership with a local elementary school by offering spiritual formation opportunities.

Seek Justice

Goal: Explore potential areas for justice ministry

- We will share a congregational conversation about justice, including:
 - What is justice?
 - Why do we seek justice?
 - How do we seek justice in our community?