



# Growing Healthy Churches

American Baptist Churches  
of Michigan

## Future Search 8 Key Principles Progress Report

Church Growth & Planting  
Community Impact & Involvement  
Connection  
Empowerment  
Inclusiveness/Diversity  
Spiritual Formation  
Stewardship  
Technology

Last Updated August 2010

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# Future Search 8 Key Principles - **Defined**

## **Church Growth/Planting:**

*We further the Kingdom of God through innovative approaches that engage the culture to reach new believers, creating and supporting new and established churches that reflect our communities.*

## **Community Impact & Involvement:**

*As the heart, hands and feet of Christ beyond the walls of the church building, we will touch the lives of those in need, engaging in relationships that impact our community in real and relevant ways.*

## **Connection:**

*We invite congregations to prayerfully connect, collaborate and celebrate our passion for Kingdom building with one another in Christ Jesus.*

## **Empowerment:**

*Knowing that ABC-MI churches become and remain healthy through effective ministry, we are committed to empower, equip, mentor and care for clergy, laity, and future disciples so that we will impact our churches, communities and world for Christ.*

## **Inclusiveness/Diversity:**

*Because we are all created in God's image and recognizing that we are one body with many members; we embrace the entire human family and its gifts to intentionally build community to increase the love of God and neighbor.*

## **Spiritual Formation:**

*We place a priority on increasing a biblical understanding that produces authentic spiritual transformation into the image of Christ so as to make known the Kingdom of God.*

## **Stewardship:**

*We are called to be faithful stewards of God's creation. We partner with God utilizing all our resources so that all of creation receives justice.*

## **Technology:**

*We use technology as a tool of communication to advance the Kingdom of God and facilitate ministry.*

# Future Search 8 Key Principles - **Activities/Events**

## **April 2010 – Present & Future**

### **Stewardship:**

Churches received Region Offering promotional materials in April. The program was highlighted in May but churches are free to receive the offering any time throughout the year. First Baptist Church of Royal Oak Missions Committee offered to match up to \$15,000 for new monies collected into the Region offering funds.

### **Church Growth / Empowerment / Spiritual Formation / Technology / Stewardship:**

In May of 2010, the Region established a contract with Citrix establishing our ability to create webinars using the Go to Webinar format, and to use Go to Meetings for online meetings of no more than 15 persons. In June of 2010 and again in August, the Region created a webinar entitled “Introduction to the ReTool Pathway,” which was also recorded for future use. The Region will continue to develop webinars as a teaching/information source for pastors and lay leaders. Stewardship will be covered in a future webinar.

### **Church Growth / Community Impact:**

The Metropolitan Detroit Association of American Baptist Churches to sponsor an evangelism seminar on September 10 & 11, 2010 in order to train and assist MDA and Region churches in outreach to new believers. The evangelism seminar will be led by Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, Evangelism Director for the American Baptist Churches, USA, and will be centered on personality-based evangelism.

The Region has recruited 11 church coaches for the ReTool Kit Pathway a two-year pathway of discipleship, discovery and design for ministry. A trained coach will walk alongside church leadership for two years and lead them in six retreats. The retreats are designed to strengthen church leadership, community, urgency for mission, vision and ministry focus.

### **Inclusiveness / Diversity:**

The Conference for Women in Ministry, sponsored by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (NM) was held August 19 – 20, 2010 at the New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit and hosted by Rev. Dr. Wilma Johnson. The theme, “Women Together: Lifting and Encouraging One Another,” ran throughout seminars, workshops and preachers who inspired, encouraged and challenged women in ministry.

### **Empowerment:**

Rev. Brad Powell of NorthRidge Church in Plymouth will be our guest speaker at the ABC-MI Annual Equipping Event on October 22, 2010 at First Baptist Church in Charlotte. He will be speaking on, “Change: How to Manage the Journey.”

Fanning the Flame Conference for pastors at the Green Lake Conference Center May 24-27, 2010 and attended by (number of pastors) from Michigan.

### **Community Impact & Involvement:**

Six of our Region churches (through the leadership of Gretechen Sanewsky's MLG), are participating in a project called The Missional Church Learning Experience sponsored by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (NM). The Learning Experience structures an engagement in a specific community outreach ministry by each of the participating churches. The project runs through 2011.

## **January 2010 – April 2010:**

### **Spiritual Formation/Stewardship:**

The ABC-MI Executive Committee, during its January 21 meeting, unanimously approved the appointment of Reverend Dr. Dave Nichols to serve on the ABC-MI staff as Consultant for Stewardship, Discipleship and Congregational Health. In this position, Dr. Nichols serves part-time as the ABC-MI American Baptist Foundation (ABF) representative filling the position previously held by Rev. Joseph Huse. In this capacity, he will work under the auspices of the ABF with that portion of his job description funded by the ABF.

In addition, he will serve part-time in the areas of stewardship and discipleship working with ABC-MI congregations to identify and address their unique corporate stewardship and personal discipleship issues. This portion of his portfolio is made possible by the generosity of the First Baptist Church of Royal Oak Mission Fund (FBCRO) and Genesis—The Church (Genesis), both of whom offered to provide funding in support of Dr. Nichols, recognizing his unique gifts and qualifications for this position. This is not re-directed funding, but rather new monies to the ABC-MI by these two entities to make this position a reality.

### **Church Growth / Community Impact:**

The Congregational Ministries & Missions Team is sponsoring a program called **ReTool**. It is a two-year, guided process of church mobilization intended to bring about renewal and growth in local churches. It offers a comprehensive process for development of three major aspects of church life:

1. Community: How local church leaders and members related to each other (spiritual & relational vitality)
2. Cause: How local church leaders and the congregation envision the unique task God has given them (focused mission & vision)
3. Corporation: How the local church organizes itself as a body to carry out God's vision as effectively and strategically as possible (functional ministry structures)

### **Empowerment:**

University Baptist Church hosted the Youth Worker Connect Event on March 13, 2010. Over 40 youth workers were encouraged and empowered at the event sponsored by the Family Ministries Team. Presenter Danette Matty was the featured guest speaker with workshops entitled:

- “More Than Just Sunday”
- “Bridging the Gap”
- “From Their Perspective: Can You Hear Me Now?”
- “Tweet, Tweet: Did You Get the Memo?”

## **Community Impact & Involvement:**

The Children in Poverty initiative, sponsored by National Ministries of the ABCUSA and the Metro Detroit Area, continues to make headway with the help of many participants from the community. Family nights and a food pantry have been established and a tutoring program at Fitzgerald School is in the planning stages. Exploration of forming a 501 3c for grant writing purposes is currently taking place in an effort to obtain funding for the various aspects of this initiative.

## **September 2009 – December 2009**

### **Church Growth / Empowerment / Spiritual Formation / Technology:**

ABC-MI Clergy will be offered the opportunity to participate in two webinars (web seminars) offered Fall 2009 by The Columbia Partnership (George Bullard), related to congregational transformation. If support for the two webinars merits it, a third webinar will be offered in January 2010. Webinar dates/topics:

- September 16, 2009 – *First Steps in Church Transformation*  
Description: Beginning is the difficult part of church transformation. Some of the foundational systemic issues that must be addressed before the process of church transformation can begin will be addressed.
- October 28, 2009 – *Pastoral Leadership For Transformation*  
Description: Leading a church in transformation is different from traditional pastoral ministry. New skills, concepts and approaches must be learned and applied to lead the church into new life.

Each webinar is accessed from a home or office computer, which has Internet access. Each webinar also requires a telephone conference call. The webinars are live (real time) presentations, one hour in length, including accompanying and downloadable PowerPoint presentations and the opportunity for questions at the conclusion of each webinar.

## **May 2009 – August 2009:**

### **Stewardship:**

Summer is the time many of our churches begin to plan for their fall stewardship emphasis. A new resource posted on the [www.abc-mi.org](http://www.abc-mi.org) website, you might want to consider is called “New Love New Mercy” produced by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. The program, based on Lamentations 3:21-24, incorporates a “tableaux” or “living pictures” to add a unique visual element to worship. The program also includes a newly written song by Ken Medema, as well as other helpful materials to promote the emphasis. In addition, a downloadable resource that includes Bible studies, discussion questions and worship aids, can be purchased for \$20.00 by reviewing this and all the other resources at <http://www.stewardshipresources.org> or you can order by calling Judson Press at 1-800-4JUDSON.

A list of stewardship resources to share has been developed for congregations and leaders throughout the state to encourage awareness and hopefully, action. Each resource in the compilation is accompanied by a short blurb about content and availability (see Resource Materials section of this document). Ideally, this will be a growing resource as more churches recognize and claim biblical responsibility for good stewardship of all God's creation. If you have materials you have used successfully in your church and recommend to others, please contact Nancy Nabors with the pertinent information.

### **Spiritual Formation:**

The Rev. Dr. John Piippo, who was part of the Future Search experience, met with a group of ABC-MI pastors on May 7th to explore the critical role of spiritual formation in the revitalization of the traditional First Baptist Church.

### **Church Growth and Planting:**

A Church Planting event was held Saturday, May 9, at Judson Memorial Baptist Church with David Howe of the Baptist General Conference as guest speaker. Fourteen people attended representing eight different churches. The goal of the Team is to have 1-2 new church plants within the next 3-5 years. The event was planned by the Church Planting Task Force of the CMMT.

### **Community Impact & Involvement / Connection / Inclusiveness & Diversity / Stewardship / Technology:**

A survey is being conducted to examine what various churches are doing in terms of ministries in order to develop a database for networking purposes. When a church is contemplating a new ministry, rather than go it alone, they can be resourced by another ABC-MI congregation already involved in the ministry they are contemplating. They can network and thus be more effective in launching a new ministry.

The Region Offering Task Force *Sowing Seeds of Ministry* DVD (and literature) was produced and distributed as a resource for ABC-MI churches to encourage their congregations in giving to the Region offering. The *Sowing Seeds of Ministry* DVD and literature highlight our life together as ABC-MI churches with emphasis on community involvement and outreach as well as the importance of diversity within the ABC-MI.

### **Connection and Empowerment:**

First ABC-MI Burmese Youth Retreat at Camp Lael May 23-25, 2009 to help Burmese youth from across Michigan feel a stronger connection to one another, to the ABC-MI and encourage them to be a strong witness to their American peers.

ABC-MI/BIM Missions Conference for African-American churches at the Russell Street Baptist Church in Detroit on May 30-31, 2009. Missions teams from nine African American congregations received updates on the regional, national, and international mission enterprise of American Baptists. Plans are underway for a 2010 mission work experience to Africa sponsored by the ABC-MI and BIM.

### **Empowerment:**

The ABC-MI has joined up with ABCOPAD to make online Youth Worker Training available to ABC-MI constituents who want training in working with youth. More information available at <http://www.abcopadym.org>.

The 2008 Youth Leadership Core (YLC) program at Camp Lael saw 10 students graduate representing 6 ABC-MI churches.

The Ministry Leadership Certification program is up and running with 5-6 regular students working toward certification. The program is offered for those:

- Who are interested in seeking challenging personal and spiritual enrichment in church leadership and biblical training;
- Who desire to earn a certificate in ministry that could be recognized for consideration and accreditation in interim ministry or bi-vocational ministry;
- Who want to work toward ordination standards within the local church and the American Baptist Churches of Michigan.

### **Technology:**

ABC-MI Tech Team is in the process of recruiting more individuals with expertise in various areas of technology, i.e., web, networking, audio/video and hardware. Interested persons can contact Matthew Brown, Joe Moretensen or Erica Van Brakle.

Matthew and Joe are part of an ABCUSA IT group made up of people from most ABC regions and they have met 3 times so far via conference call. There was discussion about the possibility of making a grant available for churches to obtain technical equipment but no further information is available at this time.

## **February – May 2009**

### **Technology:**

Rev. Matt Brown, who was part of the Future Search experience, committed to help address the technology key principle. Most recently he has worked with the Region Offering Task force during the first quarter of 2009 to enhance the promotional materials from a technological perspective.

### **Inclusiveness / Diversity:**

The Rev. Cheryl Swaker-Coneal and the Family Ministries Team held a Youth Worker Training event on March 14 entitled, *Youth Ministry Connect* at the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church of Flint. They intentionally focused on ways to bring African American youth workers to the event including the use of a gifted African American keynote speaker. This event saw as many African American youth workers in attendance as Euro-American youth workers.

The ABC-MI Executive Committee also worked to highlight through E-Link & the ABC-MI website, the American Baptist Women in Ministry Sunday.

### **Community Impact & Involvement:**

The Children in Poverty Future Search Conference, sponsored by the Metro Detroit Association (MDA), was held April 17-19 in Detroit. A diverse group of residents, parents, young people, educators, health care providers, business and church leaders, and government officials came together to help create specific plans to address issues of poverty across the boundaries of individual turf, and to effectively impact children and families by helping to create a stronger, more unified community base for addressing problems and

developing new ideas. A report of specific plans that came from the conference is available in a printed conference report by contacting Rev. Ronald Burks at 248.388.4377 or [palestinembc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:palestinembc@sbcglobal.net).

## **December 2008 – January 2009**

### **Community Impact & Involvement / Connection:**

An Evangelism Conference was held in January 2009 at Crosspointe Meadows Church in Novi with the support of ABC-MI Region and Metropolitan Detroit Association. Well-known evangelism strategists, George Hunter, Jeffrey Johnson, and most recently, Dan Southerland, gave churches insight and enthusiasm for reaching out to others. Region church families have benefited from getting to know each other through the event and have learned strategic partnerships are an important part of evangelism. ABC-MI churches have found much in common in the desire to make a difference in lives and encourage one another to that end.

# Appendix 1

## Future Search 8 Key Principles - Meeting Discussions

### August 12, 2010 Executive Committee Meeting

#### I. Region

##### A. Diversity / Inclusion

1. Dr. Williams reported that there are two (2) churches that have applied for admission into the ABC-MI Region. They are:
  - Chin Baptist Church of Grand Rapids
  - Second Genesis Church of Flint

Both churches have been received into fellowship by their respective Areas and now await approval of the Region Board at the August 28, 2010 meeting. Thereafter, if approved by the Region Board, both will be received in fellowship at the Region Annual Meeting on October 23, 2010.

##### B. Stewardship

1. Dr. Williams shared a Powerpoint presentation prepared by Rev. Dr. Dave Nichols promoting a “legacy” fund initiative he would like to present to the Region Board at their August meeting. The Executive Committee agreed to add this presentation to the Region Board August agenda.

### April 17, 2010 Region Board Meeting

#### I. Region

##### A. Stewardship

1. 2010 Region Offering promotional materials have been sent to churches. May is the month we are highlighting/encouraging churches to receive this offering though they are free to receive this offering any time throughout the year. Savings in printed materials has positively impacted this year’s offering promotion expense. Special thanks is extended to First Baptist Church of Royal Oak Missions Committee for offering to match, up to \$15,000 for new monies collected as Region offering funds.

#### II. Congregational Ministries & Missions Team

##### A. Church Growth / Community Impact

1. Rev. Roberts, CMMT chair, reported on plans to train several individuals in a new initiative entitled Retool. This is an intentional two year process a congregation can embark upon that leads to the discovery and implementation of strategies for living out their God-given vision and mission.

## **January 21, 2010 Executive Committee Meeting**

### I. Region

#### A. Stewardship

1. David Nichols – Consultant for Stewardship, Discipleship and Congregational Health

### II. Congregational Ministries & Missions Team

#### A. Church Growth; Community Impact

1. CMMT continues to develop a “clearing house” for Region churches to share resources and programs which will allow more effective use of church funds.
2. Rev. Tom Roberts presented to the Executive Committee a proposal entitled, “The Retool Pathway.” The CMMT is seeking an additional \$1700.00 from the Executive Committee to implement this as a pilot program. These funds, coupled with other CMMT funds, would cover the 2010 costs associated with this initiative.

## **September 12, 2009 Region Board Meeting**

### I. Administrative Ministries Team

#### A. Technology

1. Matt Brown reported volunteers are needed to assist churches with technical issues. He has had a couple of responses but would like a few more to develop a good response team. Mike Williams indicated the professional staff has been mentioning this when they visit local churches. Trina suggested Matt prepare a postcard-sized promotional piece to be distributed to churches by staff.
2. Webinar – the positive response in registrations for the upcoming Webinars is an indication clergy are interested in this form of technological communication and training.
3. Website – rotating photos have been added to the ABC-MI homepage to feature the “faces” of ABC-MI.

## B. Stewardship

1. Mike reported the AB Foundation representative for Michigan has been terminated. He has come to believe the current AB Foundation representative model is not working. He has proposed having a part-time representative just for Michigan. He has met with his counterparts from ABC of Indiana and Kentucky and ABC of Ohio for further discussions regarding the staffing model. They are interested in also having part-time AB Foundations representatives in each of their regions. AMT discussed various staffing options such as a person in this position could also address stewardship issues in the churches. A contract with 15 hours/week with AB Foundation and 15 hours/week for ABC-MI stewardship could be a possible model. Dr. Williams will continue discussions on this.

## II. Congregational Ministries & Missions Team

### 1. Community Impact & Involvement

Over 50 churches completed the Church Ministry Survey. The results are being compiled and made available at the Annual Meeting. They will also be made available online through the Region website. The hope is that congregations will connect with others who are already doing a similar ministry.

## **August 20, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting**

### I. Metro Detroit Association

#### A. Community Impact & Involvement

1. MDA is currently focusing on evangelism efforts and hope to be totally engaged in their evangelism efforts by the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this program. There is strong participation among the churches.

### II. Congregational Ministries & Missions Team

#### A. Community Impact & Involvement / Connecting / Empowerment / Stewardship

1. A survey is being conducted to examine what various churches are doing in terms of ministries in order to develop a database for networking purposes. When a church is contemplating a new ministry, rather than go it alone, they can be resourced by another ABC-MI congregation already involved in the ministry they are contemplating. They can network and thus be more effective in launching a new ministry.

## **June 4, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting**

- I. Rev. Dr. Mike Williams commented the Future Search progress is currently tracked manually by his Executive Assistant, Ms. Sheila Kaminski. However, he is asking for recommendations from the Executive Committee on how this might be accomplished more efficiently and effectively.

## **May 2, 2009 Region Board Meeting**

### I. Administrative Ministries Team:

#### A. Stewardship

1. No stewardship resources available from ABCUSA. Jabulani McAlister volunteered to be the point person to research available resources. Suggestions for materials can be sent via email to: [revjabulanigcbc@ameritech.net](mailto:revjabulanigcbc@ameritech.net).
2. Other stewardship suggestions include:
  - Teams that can be trained to go to churches in the ABC-MI and do a financial review of what needs to be done and offer ideas to help.
  - A risk questionnaire with input from the Region auditors is available to churches.
3. More research to be done and information made available at the Annual Equipping Event & Annual Meeting in October

### II. Congregational Ministries and Missions Team:

#### A. Church Growth / Empowerment / Technology

1. Mike Williams shared about his involvement in proactive ministries in the Region. He is utilizing technology to improve communication and offer more resources to Region churches.
2. Ron introduced a potential tool through a webinar format. This is in cooperation with The Columbia Partnership (George Bullard). Each webinar is accessed from a home or office computer. The webinars are one hour in length and include a presentation (seminar) with accompanying Power Point, and an opportunity for questions at the end of each webinar. The Power Point notes are then available for downloading at no extra cost. Any number of participants may call in and participate in the webinar. We spent time discussing a follow-up/coaching plan for this opportunity utilizing our current MLG's. This information was also shared with the Leadership Ministries Team.

### III. Family Ministries Team:

#### A. Technology / Empowerment

1. Mike Williams stopped by the meeting and discussed the possibility of online Youth Ministry training in conjunction with American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD) and Eastern University in Philadelphia, PA.
  - Training would entail weekly class sessions online, and a minimal number of weekend meetings in person.
  - Staff would come to Michigan if three or more people were interested, negating travel to Philadelphia.
  - Classes would run from August until Thanksgiving, and January through early May.
  - Credits earned would apply toward a degree at most Christian colleges.
2. A vote passed unanimously to endorse and promote this opportunity to partner with ABCOPAD to further train and educate youth leaders from Michigan.

#### B. Spiritual Formation

1. Most efficient use of resources to connect and strengthen leaders of campus ministries was discussed
2. Opportunity to grow potential leaders is great with campus ministry outlets

### IV. Leadership Ministries Team

#### A. Inclusiveness and Diversity

1. David Swink will lead a new Diversity Ministry Leadership Group in the metro Detroit area in the coming month
2. Importance of diversity in all MLGs was discussed

#### B. Empowerment

1. Ministry Leadership Certification program is offered at FBC, Southfield in Detroit and FBC in Charlotte
2. Rev. Patricia Butler is the coordinator for the Detroit extension
3. There have been up to 12 participants between the two locations
4. Ministry Leadership Certification is designed to be self-sustaining

#### C. Church Growth / Empowerment / Technology

1. Ron introduced a potential tool through a webinar format. This is in cooperation with The Columbia Partnership (George Bullard). Each webinar is accessed from a home or office computer. The webinars are one hour in length and include a presentation (seminar) with accompanying Power Point, and an opportunity for questions at the end of each webinar. The Power Point notes are then available for downloading at no extra cost. Any number of participants may call in and participate in the webinar. We spent time discussing a follow-up/coaching plan for this opportunity utilizing our

current MLG's. This information was also shared with the Congregational Ministries and Missions Team.

- V. Region Board Meeting - Dr. Williams discussed the Region's efforts to stay on top of the eight Future Search principles and presented an update on progress being made in each Future Search area. An effort is being made to update the Region through presentation at each Executive Committee meeting and at each Region Board meeting.
  - A. Technology
    - 1. Specific thanks were conveyed to Ms. Erica Van Brakle and Rev. Matt Brown for their efforts in addressing the technology principle in relation to the Region Offering.
    - 2. Another example of how technology is being used is the use of Skype for staff and task force meetings. This method of conferencing, a combination of video and voice via the Internet, reduces expenses.
  - B. Spiritual Formation
    - 1. Dr. Williams reported that we are paying a high price for poor Christian Education in our churches and we must get serious about spiritual growth and development.
    - 2. To that end, Rev. Cary is bringing a group of pastors together to explore the importance of spiritual transformation in the revitalizing of congregations.

## **February 19, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting**

- I. Administrative Ministries Team – Michael Kingsbury
  - A. Stewardship – no meeting to date
  - B. Technology – This group has met electronically via e-mail. Dr. Williams reported that Rev. Matthew Brown has done some work in this area.
- II. Congregational Ministries & Missions Team – Rev. Jon Good
  - A. Church Growth & Planting
    - 1. CMMT planning to host a church-planting event to involve churches at the ground level. Event planned for May 9, 2009
    - 2. Rev. DeMott Shanes asked if Rev. Good would work to complete the short term action which is listed in the Future Search report as "providing 10 bookes / websites to help churches understand their culture and context." This item can connect with the technology piece by providing the list of resources on the Region website.
  - B. Community Impact & Involvement - Community Impact & Involvement - Rev. DeMott Shanes offered to contact Dr. Linnea Berg and other Future Search participants to complete a

church survey that was listed as one of the group's short term actions. An initial draft was worked on in June 2008, but was not completed.

### III. Family Ministries Team – Rev. Cheryl Coneal-Swaker

- A. FMT to host Youth Worker Connect Conference on March 14, 2009 at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Flint to empower youth workers within ABC-MI. Danette Matty will be the featured guest speaker along with ABC-MI speakers: Mr. Jim Davis, Dr. James Kent, Rev. Alex Pickens and Ms. Arleen Lloyd. Event was planned with much consideration for inclusiveness and diversity to ensure programming would be relevant to youth ministry in African-American congregations.

### IV. Executive Committee – Rev. Heidi DeMott Shanes

#### A. Inclusiveness / Diversity

##### 1. Women In Ministry

- Addition of ABWIM link to Region website under ABC-USA related links
- *Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection* was included on the website as a featured book review.
- Invitation for women clergy to participate in a survey on women in ministry, as well as the current issue of the ABWIM newsletter in the January 12 edition of E-Link.
- March 15 is the annual American Baptist Women in Ministry Celebration Sunday with announcement to appear in the February 23 edition of E-Link and on the ABC-MI homepage to include a 22-page resource booklet.

##### 2. Rev. DeMott Shanes commented on the good work of the 2008 Nominating Committee giving careful attention to diversity of race, gender and age of this year's board.

- Individuals have asked about what work has been done in the area of Inclusiveness/Diversity – it may be important to hear what expectations people have.
- Rev. DeMott Shanes requested that Dr. Turman work with her on the EC oversight of Inclusiveness/Diversity. Dr. Turman agree

### V. Next Steps

#### A. Considerable discussion regarding accountability of ministries teams for their Future Search responsibilities

1. Rev. DeMott Shanes stated each ministries team chair should relate back to the Future Search Conference Report to identify the individuals who were involved in developing each of the eight areas at the conference. Chairpersons should contact these individuals for the purpose of achieving the long and short term goals listed under their respective focus areas.
2. Rev. Dr. Turman made the motion that each ministry team will appoint a member of their team as a facilitator who will make regular written reports of their Future

Search progress to the Executive Committee. Motion seconded by Rev. Erica Van Brakle. Motion passed.

## **December 4, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting**

- I. Future Search - Eight areas for improvement were identified by The Future Search Process. These areas have been posted and can be viewed on the ABC-MI website. Each of the eight areas has been assigned to a ministries team for further action. It was agreed that the Executive Committee was responsible for assuring ongoing ministries team accountability as they continue the Future Search process.

## **October 22, 2008 Leadership Ministries Team Meeting: FS Results Discussion**

- I. Empowerment: Short Term Action
  - A. Continue to provide clergy and lay training (CECL, MLC, Pastoral Excellence, seminarians, conferences, etc.
  - B. Develop pastors toolbox; better networking of resources (workshops); Resources to identify and develop gifts, strengths, abilities:
    1. Set up blog sites
    2. Ask paid resources (Susan Beaumont , Ron Sider, etc.) to contribute to the blogs.
  - C. Develop pastor's mentoring program (utilize pastors who have completed CECL)
    1. Lift up the African American model of pastors having pastors so Euro pastors can decide if this would serve their needs and supplement participation in an MLG
      - Hold discussion at pastors retreat led by a group of African American pastors
      - Give visibility to individuals who are potential pastors to pastors
      - Introduce African American pastors in conjunction with their pastors
  - D. Study what other denominations are doing to train and validate laity (lay certification program)
  - E. Develop plan to form and train mission teams
    1. Utilize E-link
    2. Each year ask one church to share its American Baptist mission trip experience at the Region Annual Gathering – Charles Poole needs to bring it up to Executive Committee as a recommendation from LMT

## II. Empowerment: Long Term Action

### A. MLGs

1. 50-50 Euro/African-American – Dave Swink will start the long-term development of this group
2. Use peer group leader training in 2009 to explore balance within existing MLGs – how different types of needs can be met in current groups rather than creating new need-specific groups

### B. Develop plans to utilize laity as consultant to assist staff

1. Ask Larry Ward to implement ABC of the West pastor appreciation program here – initiate and find his own successor

## **September 23, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting**

### I. Executive Committee received reports from ministries teams chairs regarding their team's discussion of the Key Principles:

#### A. Administrative Ministries Team – Mr. Michael Kingsbury

1. AMT will address technology and stewardship. The AMT was charged with addressing technology. A review was made regarding the use of technology and possible tools. Next year the Team will meet and the focus will be on gathering information more than purchase of items. Mike Williams and Joe Mortensen will be included in the Technology Team discussion since they developed the current website and can provide valuable information. At present the plans are not to recreate the current site but rather add a portion to it. Matt Brown is to summarize the needs and communicate with Mike Kingsbury.
2. AMT will bring Region Offering Task Force under their team for oversight.

#### B. Congregational Ministries & Missions Team – Rev. Danny Langley

1. Acting on assigned Key Principle Church Growth & Planting formed Church Planting Task Force.

#### C. Family Ministries Team – Dr. Jim Kent

1. Team found they related to nearly all eight Key Principles.
2. Will focus on growing healthy churches, evangelism and discipleship in the areas of children's, youth, campus and senior adult ministries.

3. Will run youth worker training event at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Flint on March 14, 2009.

D. Leadership Ministries Team – Dr. David Swink

1. LMT will consider and discuss Empowerment at their November meeting as time did not permit them to do so at the September meeting.
  2. LMT will no longer bring recommendations regarding speakers for the Annual Equipping Event but suggested the Annual Equipping Event Planning Committee should have the speaker in place two years ahead.
  3. LMT will focus on an annual event for MLG peer leaders separate from the Region Annual Equipping Event.
- II. Executive Committee determined the agenda for every Executive Committee meeting should include updates and milestones reporting for Future Search.
- III. There were no Future Search 2009 budget requests.

## **September 13, 2008 Ministries Teams and Region Board Meeting**

- I. Ministries teams met to discuss Future Search Key Principles previously assigned to them by the Executive Committee as well as other Key Principles they may be able to address at least in part.
- II. Region Board received the Future Search Report and affirmed the Executive Committee's decision to assign Key Principles to the ministries teams for next steps.

## **August 14, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting**

- I. Executive Committee received the Future Search Report and discussed.
- II. Executive Committee (EC) made preliminary assignments of the eight Key Principles of Ministry (pg. 4 of Future Search Report) to ministries teams asking them to bring recommendations for implementation and funding. In addition, EC invited ministries teams to consider how they might address, at least in part, the other Key Principles not originally assigned to them. Preliminary assignments are as follows:
  - A. Executive Committee
    - Inclusiveness/Diversity
    - Connection
  - B. Administrative Ministries Team
    - Technology
    - Stewardship

C. Congregational Ministries & Missions Team

- Community Impact & Involvement
- Church Growth & Planting

D. Leadership Ministries Team

- Spiritual Formation
- Empowerment

- III. Ministries Teams Chairs were asked to bring a written report to the September Executive Committee Meeting regarding their team's discussion of the Future Search report.
- IV. Future Search report to be distributed to Region Board as soon as possible.
- V. Ministries teams may form task forces to address the Key Principles with the Executive Committee to take on and of the Key Principles the ministries teams choose not to address.
- VI. Future Search Report will be made available to delegates at Annual Meeting.

# Appendix 2

## ABC-MI Outreach / Community Partnership Resources

### Resources for Community Impact & Involvement

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HOST	Adrian	First Baptist Church
	Ann Arbor	First Baptist Church
	Birmingham	First Baptist Church
	East Lansing	First Baptist Church
		Towar Hart
	Grass Lake	Federated Church of Grass Lake
	Gregory	Gregory Community Church
	Holly	First Baptist Church
	Jackson	First Baptist Church
	Manistique	First Baptist Church
	Mason	Mason Community Church
	Midland	First Baptist Church
	Royal Oak	First Baptist Church
	Southfield	First Baptist Church of Detroit
	Southgate	Bethel Baptist Church
	Traverse City	First Baptist Church
	Ypsilanti	Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
	ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM	Bay City
Birmingham		First Baptist Church
Detroit		Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church
		New Prospect Baptist Church
East Lansing		University Baptist Church
East Pointe		First Baptist Church
Gregory		Gregory Community Church
Holly		First Baptist Church
Lansing		Bethel Baptist Church
		Olivet Baptist Church
		Valley Farms Baptist Church
Mason		Mason Community Church
Midland		First Baptist Church
Monroe		First Baptist Church
Muskegon		First Baptist Church
Roscommon		Markey Community Baptist Church
Royal Oak		First Baptist Church
Saginaw		Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
Sault Ste. Marie		First Baptist Church
South Haven		First Baptist Church
Tawas City	First Baptist Church	

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM (cont.)	West Bloomfield Wyandotte Ypsilanti	Covenant Baptist Church First Baptist Church Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM HOST	Detroit  Flint Midland Roscommon South Haven Southfield Ypsilanti	Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church New Prospect Baptist Church Christ Community Church First Baptist Church Markey Community Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church of Detroit Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
AMERICAN RED CROSS HOST	Detroit East Lansing  Gregory Holly Lansing Mason Midland Monroe Muskegon Roscommon Royal Oak Stockbridge Wyandotte	New Prospect Baptist Church The People's Church University Baptist Church Gregory Community Church First Baptist Church Olivet Baptist Church Mason Community Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church Markey Community Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church
ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY	Davison Holly Stockbridge	First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church
BOY SCOUTS HOST	Adrian Alpena Coldwater Detroit East Lansing Grass Lake Holly Howell Jackson Lansing Livonia Manistique	First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church New Prospect Baptist Church The People's Church Federated Church of Grass Lake First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church Olivet Baptist Church Alpha Baptist Church First Baptist Church

BOY SCOUTS HOST (cont.)	Midland	First Baptist Church
CLOTHING CLOSET HOST	Ann Arbor	First Baptist Church
	Cadillac	First Baptist Church
	Detroit	Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church
		Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church
	Flint	Christ Community Church
	Gregory	Gregory Community Church
	Howell	First Baptist Church
	Mason	Mason Community Church
	Sault Ste. Marie	First Baptist Church
Ypsilanti	Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church	
COMPUTER LAB HOST	Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
CRISIS HOTLINE HOST	Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
DAYCARE CENTER	West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church
	Southfield	First Baptist Church of Detroit
	Jackson	First Baptist Church
	Monroe	First Baptist Church
	Royal Oak	First Baptist Church
	South Haven	First Baptist Church
	East Lansing	The People's Church
	Plymouth	Praise Baptist Church
DIVORCE RECOVERY GROUP HOST	Cadillac	First Baptist Church
	Davison	First Baptist Church
	Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
	Stockbridge	First Baptist Church
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM HOST	Bay City	New Hope Baptist Church
	Davison	First Baptist Church
	East Lansing	The People's Church
	Lansing	Valley Farms Baptist Church
	Midland	First Baptist Church
	Muskegon	First Baptist Church
	Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
	Southfield	First Baptist Church of Detroit
	Tawas City	First Baptist Church

EXERCISE / YOGA / ETC.

Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
East Lansing	The People's Church
Mason	Mason Community Church
Midland	First Baptist Church
Southfield	First Baptist Church of Detroit
Stockbridge	First Baptist Church
Traverse City	First Baptist Church

FAMILIES OF PRISONER PROGRAM  
HOST

Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
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FINANCIAL LITERACY /  
COUNSELING

Coldwater	First Baptist Church
Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
Eastpointe	First Baptist Church
Jackson	First Baptist Church
Lansing	Olivet Baptist Church
Mason	Mason Community Church
Midland	First Baptist Church
Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
Stockbridge	First Baptist Church
Sturgis	First Baptist Church
Tawas City	First Baptist Church
West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church

FOOD PANTRY WITH OTHER  
CHURCH

Adrian	First Baptist Church
Alpena	First Baptist Church
Ann Arbor	First Baptist Church
Bay City	New Hope Baptist Church
Birmingham	First Baptist Church
Coldwater	First Baptist Church
Davison	First Baptist Church
Dearborn Heights	Cherry Hill Baptist Church
Detroit	Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church
East Lansing	The People's Church
	Towar Hart
	University Baptist Church
Eastpointe	First Baptist Church
Grand Blanc	First Baptist Church
Grass Lake	Federated Church of Grass Lake
Gregory	Gregory Community Church
Holly	First Baptist Church
Jackson	First Baptist Church
Lansing	Bethel Baptist Church
	Christ Community Church
Manistique	First Baptist Church

FOOD PANTRY WITH OTHER  
CHURCH (cont.)

Mason	Mason Community Church
Midland	First Baptist Church
Monroe	First Baptist Church
Muskegon	First Baptist Church
Saginaw	Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
South Haven	First Baptist Church
Southfield	First Baptist Church
Southgate	Bethel Baptist Church
Stockbridge	First Baptist Church
Sturgis	First Baptist Church
Tawas City	First Baptist Church
Traverse City	First Baptist Church
West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church
Wyandotte	First Baptist Church

FOOD PANTRY IN HOUSE

Adrian	First Baptist Church
Bay City	New Hope Baptist Church
Cadillac	First Baptist Church
Detroit	Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church
East Lansing	The People's Church
Flint	Christ Community Church
Holly	First Baptist Church
Howell	First Baptist Church
Plymouth	Praise Baptist Church
Royal Oak	First Baptist Church
Saginaw	Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
Sault Ste. Marie	First Baptist Church
Southgate	Bethel Baptist Church
Stockbridge	First Baptist Church
Tawas City	First Baptist Church
Ypsilanti	Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

GIRL SCOUTS HOST

Alpena	First Baptist Church
Eastpointe	First Baptist Church
Grass Lake	Federated Church of Grass Lake
Jackson	First Baptist Church
Lansing	Olivet Baptist Church
Livonia	Alpha Baptist Church
Manistique	First Baptist Church
Mason	Mason Community Church
Midland	First Baptist Church
Stockbridge	First Baptist Church

GRANDPARENTS RAISING  
CHILDREN PROGRAM

Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
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GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM HOST	Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
	East Lansing	The People's Church
	Grass Lake	Federated Church of Grass Lake
	Manistique	First Baptist Church
	Mason	Mason Community Church
	Midland	First Baptist Church
	Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
	Tawas City	First Baptist Church
	Wyandotte	First Baptist Church
JOB SEEKER SUPPORT PROGRAM HOST	Bay City	New Hope Baptist Church
	East Lansing	University Baptist Church
	Sturgis	First Baptist Church
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PROGRAM HOST	Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
	West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church
	Ypsilanti	Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS HOST	Flint	Christ Community Church
	Traverse City	First Baptist Church
OVERNIGHT SHELTER PROGRAM HOST	Ann Arbor	First Baptist Church
	Birmingham	First Baptist Church
	Howell	First Baptist Church
OVERNIGHT SHELTER PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER CHURCHES	Ann Arbor	First Baptist Church
	Coldwater	First Baptist Church
	Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
	East Lansing	The People's Church
		Towar Hart Baptist Church
	Eastpointe	First Baptist Church
	Grass Lake	Federated Church of Grass Lake
	Howell	First Baptist Church
	Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
	Royal Oak	First Baptist Church
	Southfield	First Baptist Church of Detroit
	Sturgis	First Baptist Church
	West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church
	Wyandotte	First Baptist Church

PARENTING CLASSES	Detroit	Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church
	Eastpointe	First Baptist Church
	Lansing	Olivet Baptist Church
	Midland	First Baptist Church
	Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
	Sturgis	First Baptist Church
	West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church
PRISONER RE-ENTRY PROGRAM HOST	South Haven	First Baptist Church
PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING PROGRAM	Davison	First Baptist Church
	Lansing	Olivet Baptist Church
		Valley Farms Baptist Church
	Manistique	First Baptist Church
	Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
	Tawas City	First Baptist Church
	West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church
REFUGEE / IMMIGRANT PROGRAM HOST	Midland	First Baptist Church
	Sault Sainte Marie	First Baptist Church
RENTS SPACE TO OUTSIDE AGENCY	Dearborn Heights	Cherry Hill Baptist Church
	West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church
	Cadillac	First Baptist Church
	Grand Blanc	First Baptist Church
	Southfield	First Baptist Church of Detroit
	Holly	First Baptist Church
	Howell	First Baptist Church
	Jackson	First Baptist Church
	Tawas City	First Baptist Church
	Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
	Mason	Mason Community Church
East Lansing	Towar Hart Church	
SENIOR CITIZEN OUTREACH PROGRAM	Bay City	New Hope Baptist Church
	Birmingham	First Baptist Church
	Detroit	Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church
		New Prospect Baptist Church
	East Lansing	University Baptist Church
	Flint	Richfield Road Baptist Church
Grand Blanc	First Baptist Church	

SENIOR CITIZEN OUTREACH  
PROGRAM (cont.)

Howell	First Baptist Church
Jackson	First Baptist Church
Lansing	Olivet Baptist Church
Midland	First Baptist Church
Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church
South Haven	First Baptist Church
Sturgis	First Baptist Church
Tawas City	First Baptist Church
West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church

SHELTERED WORKSHOP HOST

Grand Blanc	First Baptist Church
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SOUP KITCHEN HOST

Ann Arbor	First Baptist Church
Birmingham	First Baptist Church
Cadillac	First Baptist Church
Southfield	First Baptist Church
Howell	First Baptist Church
Royal Oak	First Baptist Church
Tawas City	First Baptist Church
Detroit	Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church
	New Prospect Baptist Church

SOUP KITCHEN HOST IN  
COOPERATION WITH OTHER  
CHURCHES

Adrian	First Baptist Church
Alpena	First Baptist Church
Ann Arbor	First Baptist Church
Davison	First Baptist Church
Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church
East Lansing	The People's Church
	Towar Hart Church
	University Baptist Church
Jackson	First Baptist Church
Lansing	Bethel Baptist Church
Midland	First Baptist Church
Royal Oak	First Baptist Church
Sault Sainte Marie	First Baptist Church
South Haven	First Baptist Church
Sturgis	First Baptist Church
Wyandotte	First Baptist Church

THEATER GROUP HOST

Jackson	First Baptist Church
Lansing	Olivet Baptist Church
Manistique	First Baptist Church
Mason	Mason Community Church

THEATER GROUP HOST (cont.)	Midland	First Baptist Church
UNWED PREGNANT MOTHER PROGRAM HOST	Tawas City	First Baptist Church
WEIGHT LOSS GROUP HOST	Detroit East Lansing Mason Stockbridge	New Prospect Baptist Church The People's Church Mason Community Church First Baptist Church
YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER HOST	Coldwater Davison Holly Howell Lansing Midland Sturgis Wyandotte Ypsilanti	First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church Valley Farms Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

# Miscellaneous Programs by City, Church, Program

Alpena	First Baptist Church	Garden Club, MOPS
Ann Arbor	First Baptist Church	Sister Church in Nicaragua, Habitat, SA, OA/How, Dual Diagnosis, COSA, Recovery Bible Study, Interfaith Council for Peace
Bay City	New Hope Baptist Church	Valley Scribes Discipleship
Birmingham	First Baptist Church	SLAA, OA, Global Gifts Shop, B'Jazz Vespers
Cadillac	First Baptist Church	Children's Mentoring Program
Coldwater	First Baptist Church	Relay for Life, National Day of Prayer, Republican Women, School Basketball Teams
Dearborn Heights	Cherry Hill Baptist Church	Arab Speaking Classes, Genealogy Group, Lifeline uses building for medical purposes
Detroit	New Prospect Baptist Church	Free Music Lessons for Children, Adopted Local Elementary School
East Lansing	The People's Church	MSU Social Work Graduate
	Towar Hart Church	Food Movers
Grass Lake	Federated Church of Grass Lake	VFW
Gregory	Gregory Community Church	Al-Anon
Holly	First Baptist Church	Christmas in Action
Howell	First Baptist Church	Food For Life
Lansing	Bethel Baptist Church	Men's Chorus, Women's Service Clubs, Shares building with other churches
	Christ Community Church	Shares building with other churches
	Olivet Baptist Church	CPR, Flu Shot Clinic, Community Garden, Hosts other churches, Police Chaplain
Manistique	First Baptist Church	Chamber of Commerce, Women's Club
Mason	Mason Community Church	Home Schoolers Support Group, Women's Issues
Midland	First Baptist Church	Chinese School

Monroe	First Baptist Church	Shares building with other churches
Muskegon	First Baptist Church	Shares building with other churches and other service organizations, Coordinates local cable religious programming
Plymouth	Praise Baptist Church	SAFE (Setting Adults Free Eternally), Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets, Spanish Classes for Children
Roscommon	Markey Community Baptist Church	Local Habitat for Humanity Program, Built affordable senior housing building, Hosts: 4H Basketball, Coop Nursery Bike-a-thon, Model Airplane Club, Garden Club, Community Foundation, Alternatives to Abuse, Counseling Center, Special Olympics, Cheerleaders Club, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance Academy
Saginaw	Michigan Avenue Baptist Church	Community Band, Bible Study for Women
Sault Sainte Marie	First Baptist Church	Crisis Pregnancy Center Classes
Southgate	Bethel Baptist Church	Artists Guild
Tawas City	First Baptist Church	Audubon Society, Other support groups, FISH
West Bloomfield	Covenant Baptist Church	Art Gallery, Health and Nutrition Program
Wyandotte	First Baptist Church	City Mission Food Pantry

## Appendix 3

### Stewardship . . . A Concern of Michigan American Baptists

In June (2008), a number of American Baptists from across Michigan were involved in a “Future Search” experience. The experience was designed to bring a wide variety of “share holders” together to identify and explore points of common interest and concern.

One of the end-product concerns identified that weekend by our Michigan American Baptists was “STEWARDSHIP.” For some, STEWARDSHIP refers to the use of our time, money, gifts within the church family. For others, STEWARDSHIP is the issue of justice as we use more than our share of the earth’s basic resources while others do without basic needs. For still others STEWARDSHIP is the use or misuse of the earth itself and our neglect in caring for all of God’s creation. All of these concerns are important parts of STEWARDSHIP, and they are concerns with which we Christians need to wrestle.

The group which considered “STEWARDSHIP” an area of *major* concern proposed to develop a list of resources (which we have personal experience or knowledge of) to share with congregations and leaders throughout the state to encourage awareness and hopefully, action. Each resource in the following compilation is accompanied by a short blurb about content and availability. We hope this list will peak your interest and set you firmly on the road to faith-led, thought-fueled STEWARDSHIP of all that God has created.

Ideally, this will be a growing resource as more churches recognize and claim biblical responsibility. If you have materials you have used successfully in your church and recommend to others, please contact Nancy Nabors with the pertinent information.

STEWARDSHIP Team: Justine Lofton                      Tom Mansfield  
                                 Jane Moschenrose                      Nancy Nabors  
                                 Charles Poole                                      Renee Taylor

#### Recommended Resources for Becoming Good Stewards

(Last updated - April 30, 2009)

**Barnett, Marcovna ed., Greening Congregations Handbook. Seattle, WA, Earth Ministry, 2002. Order from Earth Ministry at (206) 632-2426 or [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org).** This handbook is a guide for “greening” your congregation. It begins with the question “WHY? Why should ‘greening’ be of interest to my congregation?” Using readings from a variety of voices, the editor builds the case that caring for God’s world as a whole is a biblical mandate. Once it has presented the “WHY,” the handbook moves on to “HOW.” This is a comprehensive guide with much material from which to select as you begin the greening process. (Recommended. NN)

**Callahan, Kennon L., Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church: A Guide for Every Member. 1997.** “This complete guide to giving and stewardship sheds new light on solid financial resources, one of the 12 keys to building an effective church. Here is a practical plan for the growth and development of giving and stewardship in your congregation, complete with action worksheets that advance the progress of the plan over

four years.” (We are getting rave reviews for this study from pre-retired newer members who have yet to embrace the practice of tithing. JM)

**Christians and the Environment: A Discussion Guide. Sojourners.** This series is designed to spark discussion and thought about how to live out God's call for justice in our world. The guide includes four sessions, each with Sojourners articles, questions for discussion, and ideas for further study. This is a 4-week course offered on-line by Sojourners. [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net) (Used as a Bible Study to help us helps us to better understand the need to be good stewards over all creation. JM)

**Miller, Herb. New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program: Team Member Manual plus New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program and Guest Leader Guide,** an accompanying book that is necessary. This stewardship program "approaches financing the ministries of your congregation by teaching stewardship from a spiritual perspective rather than a fundraising perspective. It focuses on the question, "What is God calling me to do?" rather than, "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?" Available on-line. (Recommended to me by other pastors. JM)

**McLaren, Brian D. Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope. 2007.** What do the life and teachings of Jesus have to say about the most critical global problems in our world today? (Recommended. NN)

**Schut, Michael, ed., Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread. Denver, CO, Living the Good News, 2002. Order from Earth Ministry at (206) 632-2426 or at [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org).** This book is an excellent collection of essays by authors like Wendell Berry, Thomas Moore, Elizabeth Johnson, John Robbins that bring into view the connections between our food choices and who and whose we are. The essays are thought provoking and encourage spiritual examination. "We cannot live harmlessly or strictly at our own expense;" says Berry, "we depend on other creatures and survive by their deaths. To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of creation. The point is, when we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament; when we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration...in such desecration we condemn ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness and others to want." The book includes a study guide for use with small groups or personal study and an extensive bibliography of additional material. (Highly recommended. NN)

**Schut, Michael, ed., Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: a Christian Perspective. Denver, CO, Living the Good News, 1999. Order at [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org).** A compilation of works by Henri Nouwen, Richard Foster, Cecile Andrews and others, this book is an exploration of the abundant life vs. the good life...using God's gifts so that all have "enough." It includes a study guide for independent or group study. (Highly recommended. NN)

**Steinke, Peter L. Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times. Herndon, VA. The Alban Institute. 2006.** Order from Alban or online. Anxious times call for steady leadership. When tensions emerge in a congregation, its leaders cannot be as anxious as the people they serve. To remain effective, congregational leaders must control their own uneasiness. Knowing how to deal with anxiety and how to work through complex challenges can lead a congregation to new insights, growth, and vitality. Anxious times hold not only the potential for loss but also for creation... (I highly recommend this book as one of the best books on being differentiated that I've read ...which of course helps tremendously when we want to talk about stewardship! JM)

## Video/DVD

**Birdsong & Coffee: A Wake Up Call, a film by Old Dog Documentaries. 56 min. Order at [www.olddogdocumentaries.com](http://www.olddogdocumentaries.com) or call (802) 457-9369.** Song birds are disappearing from North America.

South American land is being cut to grow coffee. 25 million coffee growers are being impoverished. Coffee costs are on the rise? WHY? What is the connection? This film addresses these questions and gives hope for the future. “The US consumer needs to be aware that there is huge economic power in that little cup of coffee, because coffee is the second most traded commodity on the earth, next to oil.” (Rep. Sam Farr, D-CA)  
This is great for a Sunday morning class. It includes Discussion/Study Guide. (Highly Recommended. NN)

### **Web Sites**

[www.seventhgeneration.com](http://www.seventhgeneration.com) The site contains information on products you can use everyday in cleaning without creating a hazard to your health. It also contains interesting little facts....”If every household in the US replaced just one 50 oz. bottle of ultra petroleum-based liquid laundry with 50 oz. of Seventh Generation vegetable based product, we could save 169,000 barrels of oil, enough to heat and cool 9700 US homes for a year!” (An interesting read. Check out the newsletter. Recommended. TM)

[www.greenamericatoday.org](http://www.greenamericatoday.org) To buy or not to buy. This site contains information on making your shopping dollars work for a more just society. The mission is to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. The vision is to build a world where all people have enough, where all communities are healthy and safe, and where the bounty of the Earth is preserved for all the generations to come. (This contains important tool for just spending! NN)

[www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org) This site enables you to calculate your environmental footprint and offers educational opportunities along the way. (Worth spending some time exploring. NN)