

# Witness Discipling Team Description

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ (Mt 28:19-20)*

The Witness Discipling Team (WDT) works with the Director for Evangelical Mission in the areas of new and renewing congregations in partnership with the ELCA CCL Unit. This ministry assists in birthing new starts, renewing and transforming existing congregations and communities and guiding pastors and communities through discernment, encouragement and consultations. The following are the ways the WDT do these tasks:

- a. Provide guidance and overall direction to assist congregations in evangelism and proclamation of the gospel.
- b. Assist in the activities of the Director of Evangelical Mission through the process of birthing new starts including *recruiting and identifying mission developers* and identifying and recommending sites or area ministries possibilities.
- c. Provides input in the mission grant application for new starts and other grant portals for existing congregations (Synod Strategy: ACTS for Vitality, Strategic Ministries, Holy Innovation
- d. Assists in the Ministry Review of Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWC)
- e. Provide leadership in administering mission grants for new and renewing congregations and other activities/events to assist congregations in “public affirmation of their faith in word and deed”.

The WDT does not do this work alone. The team consults and works with the Bishop, council, other relevant Discipling Teams and the churchwide Congregational Vitality Team.

The WDT team will meet monthly on Zoom before the monthly synod council meetings as well as in-person at least twice a year for planning and deepening relationships.

In selecting candidates for WDT members we hope to

1. Ensure diversity in age, race and ethnicity, gender identities, sexual orientation, gifts and experiences.
2. Find and welcome those who display a readiness and commitment to the ministry of new church development and congregation renewal and are ready to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. Welcome those who are committed to give their time and energy and are team players or collaborators, willing to establish good working relationships as we envision, encourage and embody the mission goals of our synod.
4. Be mindful that those who are currently members of those communities or congregations receiving mission grants may not be a member of the team but could act as consultants who provide ideas and thoughts.

The names of the candidate to become a WDT member should be submitted to the Nominating Committee and to be appointed by the Synod Council.