

DISCIPLELIFE 2020 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

By Lee Mills, Chair, AMR Discipleship & Renewal Ministry Team

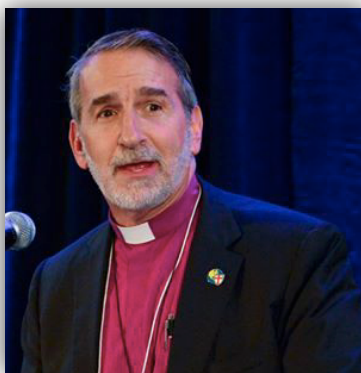
And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. –Acts 2:42

Over 400 enthusiastic pastors and lay leaders gathered in Orlando, Florida, February 13-15, 2020 for a joint North American Lutheran Church and Anglican Church in North America conference on disciple-making in our congregations. Attendees included many Atlantic Mission Region (AMR) pastors and most of our Renewal and Discipleship Ministry Team (RDMT).

Keynote presentations were made by the Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, Archbishop, ACNA, and the Rev. John Bradosky, Bishop Emeritus, NALC. Their personal testimonies regarding discipleship in general, and their commitment to personally discipling individuals who would grow to make other disciples set the stage for two days of wonderful presentations and spirited workshops led by 13 well qualified speakers. Breaks, mealtime and evening free time provided plenty of opportunity for one-on-one discussions and sharing.

This conference was an outstanding opportunity to jump-start activities related to Bishop Dan Selbo's #1 Vision for 2020, *"To see a church body committed to developing disciple-making congregations and cultures."* The conference was designed to provide disciple-making information,

resources and contacts so attendees could be provided with all necessary materials to take home and apply within their own congregation.



Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach



Rev. John Bradosky



Bishop Daniel Selbo

The information was so plentiful, it was almost impossible to absorb it all. Fortunately, the entire conference was video recorded and is available online. (*More online information is noted on pages 10 & 11 for DiscipleLife 2020.*)

Personally, I am in the process of listening to all the presentations for a second time, and viewing workshops I was unable to personally attend. The entire Renewal and Discipleship Ministry Team highly recommends that everyone interested in fulfilling the Lord's Great Commission, to be and make disciples, take the time to listen to these presentations, either as an individual or in small groups at your church. There is a plethora of outstanding material available in these videos.

We invite you to learn more about discipleship and disciple-making from our mission region's Renewal and Discipleship Ministry Team. We very much would like to support you. The RDMT has prepared a Discipleship Workshop presentation that will be introduced at the four upcoming Spring District Conferences. You may also contact any member of the RDMT as noted on page 12 or email lmills.email@comcast.net.

MESSAGE FROM THE ATLANTIC MISSION REGION DEAN...APRIL 2020

By Rev. David McGettigan, Dean, Atlantic Mission Region

“As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my helper and deliverer; do not delay, O God.” (Psalm 40:17)

The alteration and even deprivation in the normal patterns, tasks, and customs of our days communal, occupational, recreational, educational, and let's not forget, financial has taken many of our brothers and sisters deep into their souls to cry out in fear. They question some of the most basic notions of what is really important in our daily lives, to wonder what the “new normal” might be, but overall, as well to acknowledge our neediness, weakness, even poverty in a way that is transforming.

Our Bishop in his first webinar with the NALC Deans asked us to approach this not just as a threat but also an opportunity. So what is our first “opportunity” amid this crisis? Well, what I know many of our Pastors and Congregational Leaders have been doing already – to encourage and promote a new devotion to the Word of God where our salvation from every trouble is clearly proclaimed.

Does not the book of Psalms certainly speak with relevance today? From the plaintive cries of God's people in every dire circumstance of their lives whether self-made through their own sin and unfaithfulness or disaster cast upon them from without, to the confusion and questioning about their future, and finally to the powerful sound of praise and faith in their only means of deliverance, indeed I find the Psalms consoling.

We suspect that the externals of daily life may change permanently in some areas, the “new normal” coming out of this tribulation, national and even international. We have in the book of Psalms, and the whole of the sacred Word, a great opportunity to remind the world there is only one life constant and that is the salvific intention and power of our God. ***“I waited patiently for the Lord;***

he inclined to me and heard my cry, he drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure” (Psalm 40:1-2) .

A great hymn points us to the rock the Father finally provided us, ***“On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”*** My dear brother and sister servants of His Word, if we must face this global pandemic and national emergency at home, what more fruitful seasons liturgical and spiritual, to do so with courage than Holy Week and Easter? This is our special time to remember and proclaim that He who is all powerful took upon Himself our weakness, burdens, and sin and walked that most fearsome, uncertain and painful way to Calvary where he confronted even our most dreaded enemy, death itself, surrendered, died, was laid in the tomb, and despite the outward appearances of victory for the powers of evil, we know with the dawn of Sunday Jesus rose conquering all that had seemingly overcome Him...and us.

It is not in OUR own courage that we stand before this world crisis but in the courage of the name that marks us, Jesus, that name Peter lifted up when the lame beggar at the gate was healed of his infirmity, ***“...for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).*** Permit me the commentary of adding “and saved in every way from every evil that might touch us.” Embracing in faith that name and rock of our courage, however, always begins with embracing His Cross in humility, authentically following Jesus through despair and dread as we are called to these days.

Our Palm Sunday Epistle reading drew us again to the fullness of Jesus way, ***“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made***

continued

himself nothing, taking the form of a servant; being found in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8). Have courage as you embrace in humility the weakness of this moment, as you look forward and declare to all the light that is to come only in and through the power of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord, risen and alive.

Clearly “social distancing,” an exigency of this moment, is most painful for us who are the “Gathered” meant to be in community particularly these weeks to share and celebrate the great mysteries of our salvation and redemption. I commend the wonderful efforts made throughout this Mission Region to continue and deliver the worshipful celebrations of Word and prayer. Your creativity is awesome. Thanks to electronics we will still be able to remember who we are and what Jesus did for us using “virtual” gifts!

I know that online Bible studies are going on centering us more and more on the Word and its anchor amid the storms of life. Once we are together again, pray to God that this experience will have provided a more permanent love and devotion that continues in face-to-face study of His written Word. I also am aware of electronic gatherings for mutual support, sharing, and prayer such as the Central Mission District’s Pastors Meeting last week which went very well. Multiply these efforts!

You should know that in support and encouragement of these means, the Mission Region has purchased our own GoToMeeting package which is at your disposal for use to come together virtually. For guidance to instruction on its use and for reserving GoToMeeting time simply contact our AMR Administrative Assistant, Robin Harris, at rjhh67@verizon.net or cell 717-222-7472.

We are also the “Sent” with a call to bring the saving Word of God as well as His provident and healing ministry to a world that hurts and is lost. Social distancing, of course, challenges this call but does not

obviate it. In fact, when life and the world is at their worst is exactly the time we are sent. Again, I am aware of incredible efforts of our congregations to provide for folks most vulnerable in shopping and appropriate contact. At least one of our congregations has split up the membership/visitors list among the leaders with each calling and reaching out to check on and evaluate any needs as well as offer prayer over the phone.

When you call on each other, you may hear of burdens and fears to which you may be able to respond in a practical way safely. But again, always we can share mutually the blessed Word where Jesus invites us to the only effective peaceful center in all the whirlwinds of life, ***“Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light”*** (Matthew 11:28-29). How often are we counseled by His Word not to be afraid and when fear alights on our doorstep we know where to go for relief as the Psalmist says, ***“When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?”*** (Psalm 56:3-4)

Let me close with some wise words I read in the local paper from an infectious disease doctor in Canada writing because he fears less the disease than the fear, panic and hoarding he is seeing in his people, ***“I implore you all. Temper fear with reason, panic with patience, and uncertainty with education. We have an opportunity to learn a great deal about health hygiene and limiting the spread of innumerable transmissible diseases in our society. Let’s meet this challenge together in the best spirit of compassion for others, patience, and above all, an unfailing effort to seek truth, facts and knowledge - as opposed to conjecture, speculation and catastrophizing. Facts, not fear. Clean hands. Open hearts. Our children will thank us for it.”***

Well said and good advice, Doctor, and may I also add, ***“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings,***

knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us"
 (Romans 5:3-5).

Please pray for each other with special remembrance for those directly afflicted. Accept the love I bring you not just personally but the mutual love I feel as I go around this Mission Region. And while my

meandering thoughts probably did not deliver a lot of practical advice know that I or any of the individual Mission District Deans and Lay Representatives are ready and available to talk to you, to help you make decisions, or just support you through all this. (See contact info on pages 11-12) Bless you, your congregations, and your ministry. A Holy Week filled with grace and a joyous Easter for you all and those whom you serve.

REGION'S RENEWAL & DISCIPLE MINISTRY TEAM ADDRESSES BISHOP SELBO'S #1 VISION

By Lee Mills, Chair, Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Team

Bishop Dan Selbo first presented a draft of his NALC 2020 10 Point Vision Plan to all the Regions and District Deans at their November 2019 Conference in Columbus, Ohio, then a more developed plan at the Pastor's Ministerium in Orlando, Florida, prior to the DiscipleLife 2020 Conference in February. Each pastor should have a copy of this 6 page document.

This 10 point plan supports the four Core Values of the NALC and represents the commitments the whole of the NALC is striving to accomplish the next four years. While they are all important, the Atlantic Mission Region's (AMR) Renewal and Discipleship Ministry Team (RDMT) is focused on the # 1 Vision, *"To see a church body committed to developing disciple-making congregations and cultures,"* particularly within the 42 churches of the AMR.

The immediate NALC goal is to have more than 200 congregations intentionally developing disciple-making cultures by 2023. Based on the current 443 congregations in the entire NALC, this translates into at least 19 AMR congregations. With at least 4 of our congregations meeting the criteria at year-end 2019, we plan to add 2 more in 2020, 3 more in 2021, 4 more in 2022 and 6 more in 2023 to reach

the minimum 19 congregation target by the end of 2023 and hopefully go beyond that number.

This vision is consistent with the current goals of the RDMT. However, the Bishop's five sub-goals provide some additional items for us to focus on. A comprehensive strategic plan is being developed for each of the five sub-goals and it will be shared at the upcoming four district meetings. Here we would like to discuss the first three now and mention some of the steps already in process.

1. Discipleship: The goal is to produce disciples who are, themselves, able to disciple others;
 - a. Leading people to faith in Jesus, until they are able to lead others to faith in Jesus
 - b. Discipleship includes following Jesus and helping others follow Jesus

The RDMT is already actively engaged in implementing this goal. A Discipleship Workshop, highlighting several approaches has been developed and a power point presentation is currently being prepared for introduction at all four of the upcoming District Convocations. After those convocations, a discipleship team will be available to present it to any interested congregation.

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2. CREDO Initiative as the framework
 - a. CREDO stands for Confessional Renewal Empowering Discipleship & Outreach
 - b. Not a one-size-fits-all approach, but the CREDO establishes a framework for developing disciple-making cultures

The CREDO Initiative for Congregations document and description was distributed at the 2019 NALC Annual Convocation held at Indianapolis, IN. The RDMT then developed a companion piece which listed a three-step process to “get started” together with suggested resources for each initial step. Both the CREDO and the three-step process are included in the Discipleship Workshop that will be introduced at the upcoming District Convocations.

3. Expansion of trained guides for congregational support.
 - a. NALC Annual Guide Leadership Training beginning in June 2020 (rescheduled to the beginning of the August 2020 Annual Convocation in Pittsburgh, PA).

The RDMT has received the “Standards for Discipleship Guides in the NALC” document from the national Life-to-Life Team. We are currently evaluating how many AMR pastors and lay leaders are eligible to attend. We will then urge as many as possible to attend the training. Trained guides are going to be urgently needed to assist pastors and congregations as they start the process of intentionally developing disciple-making cultures in their congregations. This is a very time-consuming process and RDMT must start this year in order to have the guides necessary to achieve the 2023 goal.

The NALC goal to have 200 or more congregations intentionally developing disciple-making cultures by 2023 is ambitious but achievable. The AMR Renewal and Discipleship Ministry Team is excited about providing leadership in this area as we all work together to implement this goal, and the great commission to be and make disciples who in turn make other disciples. Also, if you have any thoughts or ideas, or questions, we would like hear from you. Email Lee at lmills.email@comcast.net so that your thoughts and questions may be conveyed and discussed with the RDM team.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TWO AMR COUNCIL MEETINGS

*January 18th at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, concluding February 1st via GTM
March 21st via GoToMeeting*

January 18, 2020

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Nazareth, PA

- Guest Pr. Brad Hales (Reformation, Culpeper, VA and NALC Director of Domestic Mission) joined the Council via GoToMeeting. There was discussion of new mission plants and how to respond when the Dean receives a phone call from people wanting to start a house church/mission plant.
- Guest Lee Mills (Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Team chair) joined the Council via GoToMeeting. He led the Council through the

congregation renewal workshop that the RDMT has developed.

- The 2019 year-end financial statement was submitted by Treasurer Kathaleen Lilley and approved pending audit.
- A grant was approved for WNALC facilitator Amy Werner to use to attend the multiple women’s retreats to which she has been invited.
- Determining a set region-wide honorarium for supply pastors and supply musicians was discussed. Robin will send a survey to the region for amounts currently paid by congregations so this can be discussed further.

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- Convening a task force who will develop guidelines and a policy for the disbursement of individual seminarian scholarships was discussed.
- A grant of \$150 per person was approved for those who wish to attend the DiscipleLife 2020 gathering in Orlando, FL in February and need financial assistance.
- Reports were heard from the Deans of all four Mission Districts and from the AMR Dean. *(See District updates under the March 21st meeting. Also, the district congregational changes are on page 11.)*
- Due to snow the meeting was recessed and will conclude via GoToMeeting on February 1.

February 1, 2020 Conclusion of the January 18th AMR Council meeting held via GoToMeeting

- The 2019 AMR Convocation (held at Trinity ELC, Joppa, MD) was discussed. The response was very positive. Worship received the strongest, mixed response.
- Both the 2020 Theological Conference AND the 2020 AMR Convocation will focus on the different styles of worship that our congregations experience (style WITH substance).
 - The Theological Conference will be held on a weekday in September, place and exact date TBD and will be geared toward clergy (laity are welcome to attend).
 - The AMR Convocation will be held on Friday, October 16 – Saturday, October 17 at Holy Cross ELC, Nazareth, PA. This gathering is intended for both clergy and laity.
- Bishop Dan Selbo will be invited to attend our 2021 AMR Convocation pending his schedule.
- Discussion of the continued role of a Regional Dean, the possibility of sponsoring a conflict resolution workshop in the AMR, financially assisting seminarians with the fee for their psychological evaluation, and considering a video publicity proposal has been tabled for our March meeting.

Highlights of the AMR Council Meeting March 21, 2020 GoToMeeting Teleconference

- Guest Art Kardos, a TV marketer from the Lehigh Valley, PA, joined the Council and discussed marketing the AMR via a YouTube channel and on local TV. A Tech Ministry Team is being formed to begin this project.
- Guest Lee Mills (Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Team chair) joined the Council and presented the RDMT report to the Council. He also discussed how the RDMT is addressing Bishop Selbo's Disciple-Making initiative that was unveiled at the Indianapolis convocation.
- The proposed 2021 Ministry Plan was discussed and readied for presentation at the Mission District spring convocations.
- The Dean will send a letter to the congregations with guidelines for supply pastor and supply musician honoraria.
- The Council discussed the impact COVID-19 is having on our Region and ways we can all stay connected during this time.
- The Theological Conference on worship style is being planned for Thursday, September 17 tentatively at St. John LC, Birdsboro, PA.
- The AMR Convocation will be held on Friday, October 16 & Saturday, October 17 tentatively at Holy Cross ELC, Nazareth, PA. The Convocation will continue the discussion of worship style and will feature worship done in both styles (traditional and contemporary).
- Reports were heard from the Deans of all four Mission Districts and from the AMR Dean.
 - ***The Central Mission District*** will hold its annual spring convocation at 9:00 a.m. on May 2, 2020.
 - ***The Northeast Mission District*** will be electing a new lay representative at its annual convocation at 9:00 a.m. on May 9, 2020. The current lay representative, Sarah Raley, is not seeking re-election.

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- *The Southern Mission District* will have an election for Dean at their annual convocation at 8:30 a.m. on May 16, 2020. Pr. John Kulczycki is eligible for re-election.
- *The Western Mission District* will have its annual convocation at 9:30 a.m. on June 6, 2020. Philip Polstra (St. Luke L. C., Bloomsburg, PA) was appointed lay representative of the WMD in January to fulfill Dick Anderson's unexpired term.
- The decision was made that ALL Mission District spring Convocations will now be held via GoToMeeting teleconference instead of face to face as originally planned. A GoToMeeting link will be emailed to registered participants by Robin Harris. The dates remain the same.
- The Council approved the purchase of GoToMeeting Teleconference software for Convocations, meetings, and to assist congregations to stay connected. Robin Harris will schedule meetings on first come, first served basis. You may reach her via email at rjhh67@verizon.net.
- The Council discussed the future role of the Regional Dean. This discussion will be held in depth at each Mission District spring Convocation.
- See the listing for all AMR roster updates and changes since October on page 11.

DISCIPLING THROUGH FAITH WEBBING

Submitted by Gary (and Laurie) Pecuch, fathwebbing.com

*With regard to Discipleship, one must always look toward how a legacy of faith is established with our children and grandchildren. With regard to the series on "Unintentional Transformation" this article, written by Gary and Laurie Pecuch is an introduction to the concept of **Faithwebbing** as well as a basic view of discipling our young. Gary and Laurie have served on the youth ministry staff of St. John's Lutheran Church in Grove City, Ohio since the early 1980's. You can catch more of Gary and Laurie by visiting fathwebbing.com.*

Effects of the "Pew Pusher"

"His name is Hal Shields. My wife, Laurie, affectionately refers to him as the "pew pusher." Mr. Shields didn't actually push church pews, but every Sunday, when my wife was a 5th grader at Hope Lutheran Church he would make his way through the pews of the sanctuary just to say, "Hello."

The first time Mr. Shields greeted her, she lowered her head, mumble a barely recognizable greeting,

and quickly turned to avoid more conversation. But Mr. Shields was persistent. Each week he came up to her after worship with a big smile on his face and the words, "Good morning, Laurie. It's good to see you. I'm glad you're here."



Gary and Laurie Pecuch

Eventually, over the years, the greeting became mutual. Laurie was eager to say hello and often looked for him at the beginning of worship. If Mr. Shields was not in worship, he was missed.

Without either of them realizing it, a surrogate grandfather-granddaughter relationship was forming,

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and it all started with the simple greeting, “Good morning, Laurie. It’s good to see you. I’m glad you’re here.”

What Mr. Shields did was to simply communicate to Laurie that he cared about her,” which to a young person quickly translates to “the church cares about me,” and that ultimately translates to “God cares about me.”

We Call It “Faith Webbing”

Our vision is to wrap our church members in a web of faith so loving and caring that they will know Jesus and always want to be a part of a local congregation.

When we started in youth ministry there was a popular model called “relational ministry.” Oftentimes, this relational ministry approach was a youth leader going to school activities or to community events or taking a couple of teens out to a restaurant for the sole purpose of building relationships. This relationship did prove important in the life of the young person and sometimes it was the only significant connection to the church. However, if the youth leader became occupied with the busyness and demands of ministry, then the connection weakened. Worse yet, if the youth leader moved on, the church connection was regrettably broken.

Faith Webbing is a much deeper, more purposeful approach to engaging youth in church, faith and growing disciples. Its premise is to intentionally identify relationship voids in young peoples’ lives then fill those voids from within the body of Christ. Little is accidental. As with any discipleship emphasis, relationships are prayerfully, purposively, intentionally sought, built, and sustained.

For some youth, there might not be a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, older or younger sibling in their life. In Faith Webbing we deliberately identify those relational voids and then aim to fill those relationship needs with loving, caring people from within the congregation. It is common for youth to develop “grandparent relationships” with several of the older members. We call them our “OWLS”

(Older Wiser Lutherans). The church becomes a place where children and youth develop needed surrogate connections.

The end result of this approach to ministry is that youth people get to know scores of people of all ages within the congregation. They get to know these folks in a safe, fun, loving, and faith-nurturing environment. As this occurs, the church then becomes a “church family” built on deep meaningful relationships.

In essence, we are loving kids into the kingdom. They are reminded constantly that the church (and God) cares about them and that the journey of faith is not meant to be walked alone. Life gets hard; however, when one is surrounded by scores of saints of God we are able to help and disciple each other through this adventure God has placed us in called life.

Much of what we do becomes filling relationship voids. We encourage parents to become what we call relationship architects, to come to church and ask the question, “who in this church does my child need to know?” Then we work to provide opportunities for those relationships to connect and cultivate.

Thus, in a way, filling those relationship voids becomes a personal ministry plan, a life-to-life relationship. Our mission jumps from sharing the vision to connecting people. We become attentive to relationship needs and prayerfully seek to weave people together in a faith-based environment. God is the supreme faith weaver. We are privileged to be the vessel through which He weaves.

Ultimately, youth become connected to various age groups, which leads to becoming involved in the life and mission of the church. No longer are young people separated from the congregation. It has resulted in our congregation having a healthy balance of aged-based programming and interest-based ministry. That is, adults and youth with similar interests spending group time together. The concept has been a blessing to all age groups.

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Faith Webbing is an intergenerational approach to ministry. It's intentional, it's faith-based, it's healthy and it works. And when Laurie and I move on from our congregation we can take comfort in knowing that although we will be missed, the youth will be surrounded by scores of other relationships that will

keep them connected to church, continue growing in faith and become mature disciples.

May God weave you into the lives of others, may others draw you closer to the heart of our Lord and Savior, and may we be woven together in His love. Amen.

MOVING FROM ATTRACTIVE TO MISSIONAL

Submitted by Rev. John Kulczycki, St Matthew LC, Middle River, MD, Southern District Dean

Churches throughout the world continue to operate within the attractional model of operation: Build a church and then offer worship, programs, events and service opportunities that attract people to come to that church to be fed and nourished by the Gospel message. While not a bad concept in and of itself the attractional approach is not something that should stand alone. It needs to work in tandem with the missional philosophy, which views the church as a place from which people leave to go out into the community and use what they have learned within the church walls to feed and nourish others with the Gospel.

In the attractional model, church is an event and a place where members in many ways are merely observers. In the missional model, the church is seen as a launching pad and members are participants in the Church at large.

Moving from attractional to missional in individual churches is not easy, but it can be done when we change our perspective of what our role as members of a church is. Our role is not to just sit in the pew each Sunday, but it is to get up and get going and be the Church for people every day of the week. Remember each time we leave the church parking lot that we are entering the mission field.

Source: Living the Gospel Life; Daily Devotions for Christians on a Mission, Vol. 2, January-March 2012.

Living the Gospel Life seeks to motivate Christians as they move outside of their churches and out into the world. The devotions are written to inspire, challenge, and equip Christians in a missional approach toward faith in action: a faith seeking to express itself in the home, the neighborhood, the workplace, the school, and the congregation. (Find it on Amazon.com for kindle or other devices.)

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY RESOURCES

HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

New Atlantic Mission Region resources to grow and stay connected!

- 1) A recent *Atlantic Mission Region* addition can be found on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/NALCAMR>

Connect with other congregations plus, in light of the current Covid-19 situation, you can find communication help such as “*How to create a live video on Facebook and a laptop or desktop computer with a webcam.*”

What the Atlantic Mission Region's Facebook page looks like.



- 2) Also find the new *YouTube* channel link that has great ideas and guides with regard to adding technology to benefit congregations and extend out outreach. Copy the link right off the .pdf file: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2VFWkxopGNHV0zSMsnOBw>

- 3) FIND AN EXCELLENT BLOG noted by Pr. Brett Jenkins and other members of the Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Team at:

<https://loganleadership.com/blog/>

Find an interesting blog there titled “*Common Mistakes in Taking Church Online: What Gets Lost in Translation*,” by Robert Logan, a Lutheran pastor. His “Barnabas Lenten Series” blogs are also very good. The week 6, “*Barnabas and Making Disciples*” is worthy of mention.

Find more resources noted in “*The Discipleship Difference: Making Disciples While Growing as Disciples*,” by Logan, a resource noted in an earlier issue of *The Atlantic Vine*.

- 4) If you were unable to attend the *DiscipleLife 2020 Conference* in Orlando, find all the videos from the conference at

<https://www.disciplelife2020.org>

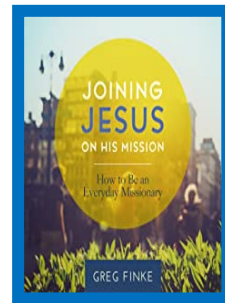
Even if you attended the DiscipleLife Conference it is helpful to listen to the video sessions again to catch what you missed and be encouraged again.

- 5) Find an additional connection at: <http://thenalc.org/vision/1-disciple-making-cultures/>
- 6) Also see resources from the NALC Academy: <https://thenalc.org/media/series/the-academy/>

RECOMMENDED READING...2 BOOKS ***JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION* and** ***JOINING JESUS SHOW ME HOW***

These two books, authored by Lutheran pastor Greg Finke, were recommended by two members of the NALC Life-to-Life Team and by a fellow member of our AMR Renewal and Discipleship Ministry Team.

Book one is “*Joining Jesus on His Mission*” that will alter the way you see your life as a follower of Jesus and take you beyond living your life for Jesus, to living life *with* Jesus. Simple, powerful, and applicable insights show you how to be on mission and recognize where Jesus is already at work, be it in your church, neighborhood, workplace, and schools. You will feel both relief



and hope. You may even hear yourself say, “I can do this!” as you start responding to the everyday opportunities Jesus is placing in your path. But, how do I do it?

The second book, “*Joining Jesus Show Me How*” addresses the “How do I do it?” question. The way Jesus discipled people is simple and results in unschooled, ordinary followers participating in the mission of the Father and discipling others to do the same. This book will help you regain the clarity and simplicity of how Jesus discipled people in the Gospels so that you can disciple your children, friends, neighbors or fellow church members to get up, follow Jesus and join him on his mission too.



Each of these books describes five simple but practical practices to follow and the corresponding question for each practice. We all dream about seeing a disciple-making culture grow in our congregation. You know, the kind where fruit is produced by those who make disciples, then they make disciples who make disciples. So, how do we do it? The author provides the following simple but profound observation:

“You can’t develop an effective system for discipling a whole congregation until you have experience effectively discipling an individual person.”

Reading these books will give you additional insight as to why disciple-making ministry starts with us as leaders gaining personal experience by discipling individuals and small groups of 2-3 people.

See all past issues of *The Atlantic Vine* for other discipleship related resources. Find copies at atlantic-nalc.org.

Welcome TO THE ATLANTIC MISSION REGION

The congregations and members of the NALC's Atlantic Mission Region extend a warm welcome to our new pastors and congregations.

October 2019

- **The Rev. George J. Mathews** (Interim)
Email: georgejmathews@gmail.com

Trinity Lutheran Church

PO Box 544
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-0544
Church: 570-587-1088
Office email: office@trinitylutherancs.com
Website: trinitylutherancs.com
Northeast Mission District

November 2019

- **The Rev. Jill Stellan**
PO Box 609
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DECEMBER 2019

- **The Rev. Dr. Brian H. Hughes**
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Southern Mission District

February 2020

- **The Rev. Logan L. Wilmoth** (Installed March 14)
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
PO Box 682
State College, PA 16804-0682
Office: 814-826-1352
Email: lwilmoth@emmanualnalc.org
Western Mission District
- **The Rev Stanley L. Bower**
Ph: 570-742-3351
Canby Lutheran Church
529 Millertown Rd
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-7116
Office: 570-784-9088
Email: pastorstanbower@yahoo.com
Western Mission District

ATLANTIC MISSION REGION CONTACTS

CURRENT AMR COUNCIL

AMR	Dean David McGettigan	609-742-2449	dmcgettigan@comcast.net
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Northeast MD	Lay Rep Sarah Raley	570-369-0238	sarah@socialseedmedia.com
Southern MD	Dean John Kulczycki	443-324-2135	john.kulczycki@verizon.net
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Western MD	Dean Steve Shipman	570-916-7780	prsteveshipman@gmail.com
Western MD	Lay Rep Philip Polstra	570-854-5653	ppolstra@gmail.com

ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

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Kathaleen Lilley, AMR Treasurer	kflilley@comcast.net
Judy Mills, Editor, The Atlantic Vine	news.atlantic.nalc@gmail.com

continued

AMR RENEWAL & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

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The Rev. Mark Chavez	<i>mchavez@thenalc.org</i>
The Rev. Brett Jenkins	<i>pastorjenkins.sts@gmail.com</i>
The Rev. John Kulczycki	<i>john.kulczycki@verizon.net</i>
The Rev. Brian Triller	<i>briantriller@protonmail.com</i>
The Rev. Luke Seamon	<i>pastor@reformation-nalc.org</i>
Ex Officio & Admin Judy Mills	<i>news.atlantic.nalc@gmail.com</i>

2nd Atlantic Mission Region Tool Trailer

Sponsored by Emanuel Lutheran Church, Elmer, NJ

Coordinated by Anette and Sam Manno

After the first Disaster Response Tool Trailer project was completed and now serving the NALC by assisting those affected by natural disasters, a second trailer was purchased for the North American Lutheran Church. Its customized transformation is being coordinated by Anette & Sam Manno, members of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Elmer, NJ.

This trailer build and customization is dedicated in loving memory of their son Matthew Montana.

If congregations or individuals would like to help bring this 2nd trailer to completion, donations may be mailed to

The Tool Trailer Project
PO Box 363, Elmer, NJ 08318.
Checks should be made payable to
Emanuel Lutheran Church

Note "Tool Trailer Project" in the memo section."

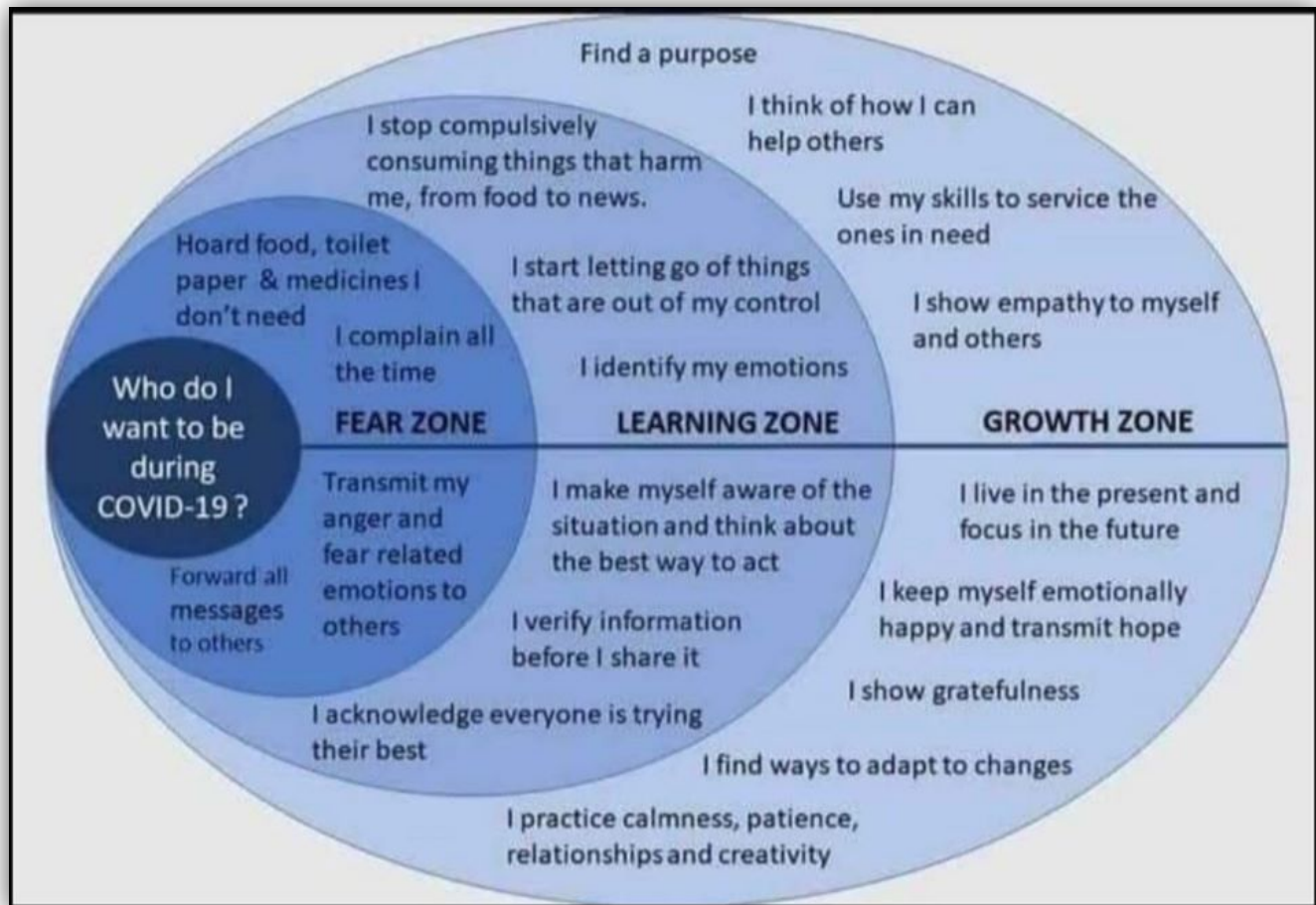


Sam and Anette Manno when they picked up "Disaster Response Tool Trailer No.2" at the dealership just after the graphics were applied.

“WHO DO I WANT TO BE DURING COVID-19?”

A HELPFUL DIAGRAM TO HELP US KEEP OUR FOCUS DURING THIS TIME.

Shared by Reformation Lutheran Church, Culpeper, VA



GoToMeeting (GTM) Available to All Regional Congregations

The Atlantic Mission Region Council has approved and purchased “GoToMeeting” for online teleconference meetings. These meetings may be held from your desk or remote location on various devices, be they Mac, PC, tablets, or mobile devices.

Since not all congregations have enough resources to purchase GTM, it is now available to all AMR congregations and pastors through the AMR. Using GTM will help you when you need it to function through the “stay home” order and social distancing. GTM only requires an app to be downloaded for the link to connect to one’s device. The process is easy and there are no follow-up emails from GTM.



GTM creates the atmosphere of meeting together at the same time, except each attendee is meeting from their own location. The work of church administration continues plus Bible studies and other important meetings can continue.

GTM is booked on a first come, first served basis.

To book a meeting on GTM contact our AMR administrator, Robin Harris at rjhh67@verizon.net. Robin will be glad to set up the meeting then email the link to you so you can email it to the participants to join the meeting.

MAKE NOTE: THE NEXT AMR NEWS

Next submission deadline for The Atlantic Vine — Tuesday July 28th

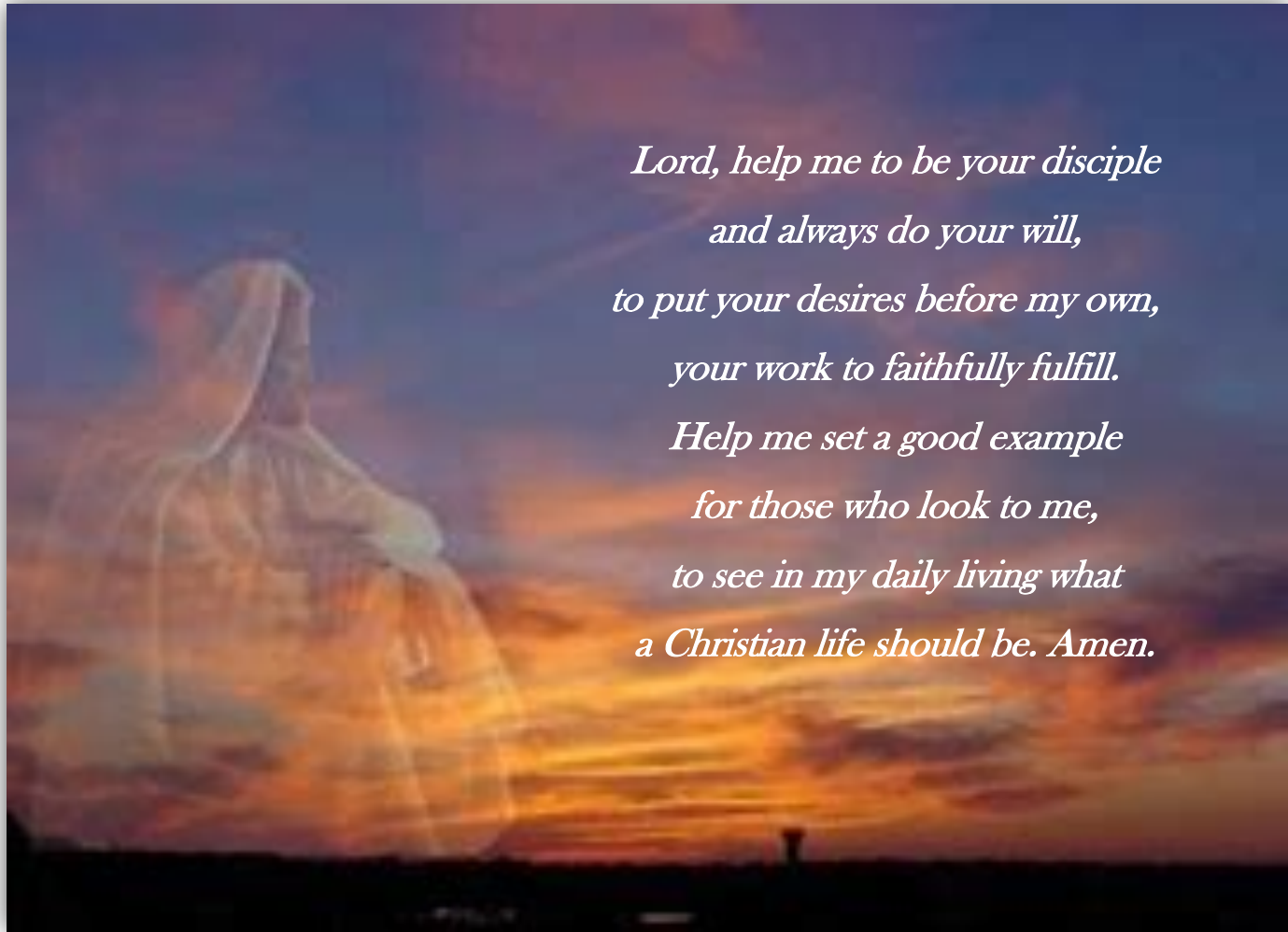
Email Judy with your communications and correspondence to: news.atlantic.nalc@gmail.com.



- Publicize your upcoming special events on the AMR calendar.
- Communicate *what's happening in your congregation*.
- Share resources effective in your congregation.

A DISCIPLE'S PRAYER

Submitted by Rev. John Kulczycki, St Matthew LC, Middle River, MD, Southern District Dean



*Lord, help me to be your disciple
and always do your will,
to put your desires before my own,
your work to faithfully fulfill.
Help me set a good example
for those who look to me,
to see in my daily living what
a Christian life should be. Amen.*