

NEW JERSEY SYNOD MISSION DIRECTIONS (STRATEGIC GOALS)

In 2001, the New Jersey Synod in Assembly adopted a plan for Reorganizing Ministry in the 21st Century, including the following eight Mission Directions:

- *To shape and encourage spirit-filled, Gospel-centered worship that both honors our traditions and embraces the gifts of God's diverse people.*
- *To continue to become a community that faithfully reflects the diverse population of the territory of New Jersey.*
- *To stand with persons living in poverty, through advocacy and service.*
- *To begin, nurture and redevelop congregations that see and understand themselves as outreach centers for God's mission.*
- *To teach the faith, so as to encourage and enable all the baptized to connect their faith with their daily life, giving particular emphasis to personal witness, stewardship as a lifestyle, and advocacy for justice and peace.*
- *To recruit and equip pastors for Word and Sacrament ministry, lay leaders for Ministry of Word and Service, and lay persons for church leadership.*
- *To build peace and enrich our community life by working effectively with ecumenical, inter-faith, and companion synod partners.*
- *To pass on the faith to all generations especially those in the first third of life, and to walk with them in their faith journey, advocating the full use of their gifts.*

For ease of communication, these Mission Directions were summarized in this mantra:

Grow the church, Raise-up leaders, Build peace.

We are now well into the first decade of the new century. Much has happened in our life and ministry together as a Synod. As we look to the next five years, we should ask ourselves whether or not these mission directions can continue to serve us as strategic goals. One way to make that determination is to examine what has been accomplished under each of these in these last seven years (a separate report to be provided). A less objective measure, but perhaps as important, would be to ask how we perceive the progress toward the three mantra goals: *Grow the church, Raise-up leaders, Build peace*. Where do we sense the most movement forward? The least movement forward? What accounts for progress or the lack of it?