

Support

National resources will be aligned in support of the *Ablaze!* Covenant Congregations through:

- funding,
- seminary theological education,
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) and its partners, and
- Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Ablaze!

Covenant Congregations

If you are interested in knowing more about Covenant Congregations, and what you can do to be one, email mission.starts@lcms.org. Visit the LCMS World Mission, National Mission Web site at www.lcmsworldmission.org/national, and click on "Church Planting."



LCMS WORLD MISSION
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Covenant Congregations

~a strategy for a church planting movement

The LCMS has committed itself to plant 2,000 new congregations in the United States by 2017 as part of its *Ablaze!* initiative. LCMS World Mission is providing leadership and assistance to help healthy congregations replicate themselves. Working with LCMS mission leaders, districts, and mission societies, 600 “healthy” Synod congregations that will commit to planting three or four “daughter” congregations each by 2017 are being identified and invited to spearhead this church-planting movement as “*Ablaze!* Covenant Congregations.”



***Ablaze!* Covenant Congregations:**

- are recruited by the respective district or self-identified and approved by the district;
- form a covenant with their district and this in turn is shared with LCMS World Mission; and
- may be comprised of a partnership with other congregations to plant up to four new congregations.

Every congregation regardless of its growth potential can take part in church planting by partnering with LCMS World Mission and other congregations to provide prayer and financial support, and perhaps even ministry leaders willing to serve outside their communities.

Successful congregational development depends on three major factors:

- the **right place**,
- the **right person** (planter),
- and the **right plan**.

In other words, the planter identification is very critical to the new congregation development.

Training

Ablaze! Covenant Congregations will participate in training offered by the Center for U.S. Mission that includes:

- a **Daughter Church Plant Training** workshop for the pastor and key leaders;
- **Basic Mission Planter Training** for the senior pastor or a staff member; *and*
- **Mission Planter Development Process Training** for the mission planter.