

# OVERVIEW

We are concerned about the future of our small congregations. Will they remain viable and strong as the community, economy, and culture around them keep changing? The Southeastern Minnesota Synod wants to empower congregations to look ahead and discern what is right for their future ministry. The synod seeks to equip and empower all congregations every step of the way.

This initiative encourages congregations to plan for their future. The synod has developed a process to help make these decisions and is ready to accompany congregations. Rev. Peter Soli of Dialog Works will be journeying along congregations to enter this process. His experiences as a congregational pastor, interim minister, trained facilitator, and consultant have provided important background for this work.

A roadmap of the Hope in Christ process is available inside this brochure. Please contact the Office of the Bishop to learn more!



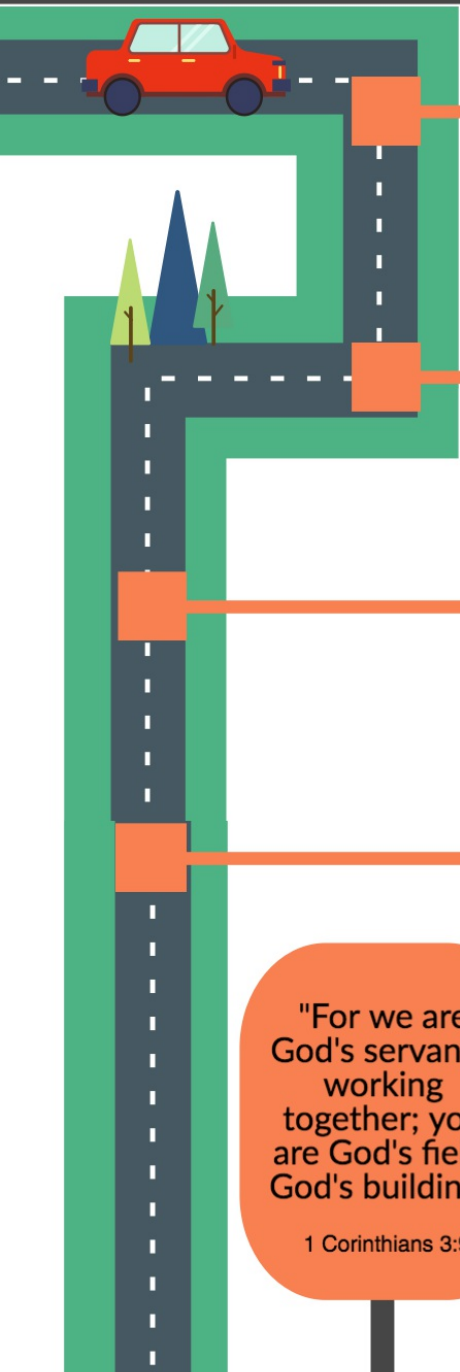
## LEARN MORE

To learn more about Hope in Christ, please contact Rev. Pete Reuss by calling 507-280-9457 or emailing [reuss@semnsynod.org](mailto:reuss@semnsynod.org). The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in this ministry.

## HOPE IN CHRIST

A Spirit-led process of discerning your congregation's future

# Roadmap to Discerning Your Congregation's Future



## 01 Become a Hope in Christ Partner

Contact Rev. Peter Reuss, Director of Evangelical Mission with the Southeastern MN Synod to make arrangements to become a partner congregation.

## 02 Form a 'Guide Team'

Choose five members to work closely with the consultant. The Guide Team will help to detail plans, handle communication, and make arrangements for the events.

## 03 Complete a Ministry Assessment

Two assessment tools are used to provide a clear picture of your congregation's sustainability and ministry vitality. A summary report is prepared by the consultant.

## 04 Congregation Conversation

With the help of a facilitator members of the congregation will reflect on the assessments. By doing a good job of listening, talking, and processing the group will identify the direction for the future.

"For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."

1 Corinthians 3:9

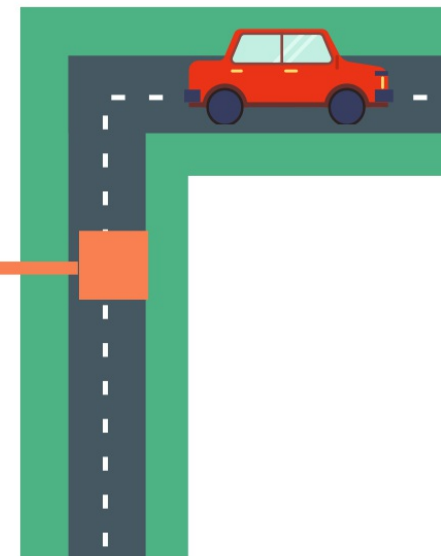
## 05 Moving into the future...

The Congregation Conversation provides a threshold for the next steps in the process:

1. Clarifying Vision
2. Strategic Planning
3. Implementation

Is now the right time to consider the vitality of your ministry and to imagine what the future will bring?

If yes, then this roadmap will help guide you through a process to discern and discover your congregation's future.



Rev. Peter Soli  
Consultant

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