



## Equipping Congregations Board

The Equipping Congregations Board works toward meeting the Synod Equipping Congregations Goals:

- We help congregations read the Bible as we grow as a biblically-literate church.
- We provide resources so congregations can deepen their focus on growing disciples.
- We prioritize the worship ministry of our synod.
- We multiply our capacity for mission development, redevelopment, and growth.
- We serve the Gospel and equip congregations to communicate in effective ways.
- We reach out to all ages in our communities, finding their interests and receiving their gifts.

The board met several times during the year, both in person and through "GoToMeeting". The Synod focus of Faith Formation guided our work throughout the year. As a board we struggled with this broad concept and how to bring it into reality in our congregations. As a guide we selected the book Faith Formation 2020 by John Roberto. In November 2013 we began a series of four meetings to discuss each chapter of the book and its relationship to our congregations. The results from these discussions will help guide the work of the Board in the future.

A grant program, \$250 per Conference, was instituted for Conferences to hold gatherings for Worship and Christian Education enrichment. Conference gatherings have included special speakers and workshops. Other board activities included a display at the Synod Assembly and a resource sharing project using the weekly E-News. The latter was not successful and was ended.

As a sub-group of the board, the Equipping Congregations Day Team planned and carried out two successful days. February 2013 saw an increased participation of 425 at Vinje in Willmar. Andrew Root was the keynote speaker. Evaluations were very positive about the day's workshops and location.

Based on the success of 2013, the decision was made to return to Vinje for the 2014 Equipping Congregations Day. With David Lose as the keynote speaker, the day exceeded expectations with close to 600 participants coming out in inclement weather. To accommodate the increased numbers two tracks of workshops were offered. Again, the evaluations were very positive.

The board continued support for youth, worship and other activities and events related to congregational operations.

Board members included: Dale Erickson, David Hall, Jim Gerde, Peggy Karsten, Karen Koeder, Bethany Nelson, Pr. Janine Olson, Pr. Willie Rosen, Dale Schley, Pr. Jennie Thul, Ben Schuft, Pr. Rachel Wrenn and Synod Staff Linda Pederson and Caitlin Kodet.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Koeder, Chair