

Report from the Commission on Congregational Development
Sue York, Chairperson

The Commission on Congregational Development meets 4 to 5 times a year. Our meetings begin with Bible Study, and the agenda is shaped by the Congregational Development needs of the diocese. Outlined below are the areas in which we have focused since April 2009.

Missional Church

Each of our congregations is called to engage the mission of the Gospel: reach out to the poor, the lonely, the oppressed. And yet we spend extraordinary amounts of time meeting our own needs and 'tweaking' congregational life. In September 2009, the Rev. Karen Ward from Church of the Apostles in Seattle, Washington, led a workshop on the Missional Church. Her time was inspirational, and invited the participants to think about church differently.

As a follow-up to Karen's time in the diocese, the Congregational Development Workshop held during the Congregational Leadership Days provided an opportunity for participants to worship, engage in mission, and reflect on the experience.

Natural Church Development

We now have three individuals trained as 'coaches' in Natural Church Development, and several of our congregations have engaged the survey, or are about to participate. Those churches that have had coaching as part of their "NCD" process find it a useful and life-giving experience. We look forward to the expansion of this ministry.

Percept Demographics

It was determined that we would not renew our participation in the Percept *Vista* program until after the 2010 census figures were available. Many of our congregations took advantage of the free Ministry Area Profile before our subscription expired.

Looking Ahead

Continuing to live into what it means to be a Missional Church will engage the work of the commission. Also, we are looking at participation in a Resort Ministry Conference sponsored by the Diocese of Colorado.