

PRE-ACA MISSIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

Theme: “From Jerusalem to Antioch: Legacy Churches Anchoring Missional Communities”

Scripture: Acts 11:19-30

Speakers:

1. Sally Schreiner Youngquist, leader at Living Water Community Church in Illinois
2. Steve North, leader at LifeLine in Toledo, Ohio

Reflection Questions:

1. What did it mean for the church in Jerusalem with its rich legacy to be an anchor for mission to a new Gentile community in Antioch?
2. How might God be calling our churches in Ohio Conference to support new expressions of mission?

Theological Overview:

Jesus called for the gospel to be shared in “Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The Christians in Jerusalem served as an anchor for mission to the Roman world. As missionaries were sent out from the church in Jerusalem through many communities in Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome, new church communities sprang up. Jews in the diaspora and gentiles were embracing the way of Jesus and starting missional communities. Over time, a number of these churches would turn their attention back to Jerusalem in prayer and support as the mother church was experiencing hardship (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:1-9:15; Rom 15:14-32).

What does the story of mission going out from Jerusalem mean for churches in Ohio Conference? Perhaps, we, like the church in Jerusalem, can be anchors for mission. We have many years of walking together as congregations as well as many gifts and resources from God. Might we be called to anchor new church plants and missional communities? What fresh expressions of ministry and mission are emerging in this new season of ministry? How can we share the best of our heritage with others and remain open to the renewal of the Holy Spirit?

Terms:

- Legacy Church a congregation that has existed in the same community for a while and has established beliefs, practices, routines, and resources.
- Missional Community a newly formed group of people engaged in discipleship and outreach in various expressions of church plants, third places, intentional/residential communities, and worship gatherings.
- Anchoring Relationship intentional sharing and support between a legacy church and a missional community in which resources, stories, and mutual prayer are exchanged. Legacy churches often anchor missional communities that emerge from within them or exist externally in close proximity to them.

Resource:

- Elaine A. Heath, *Missional. Monastic. Mainline.: A Guide to Starting Missional Micro-Communities in Historically Mainline Traditions* (Cascade Books—An Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers)