



Regeneration Summit II

The first Regeneration Summit took place in the Fall of 2009 just outside of St. Louis, MO. **The question at the beginning of the movement was:**

“What will your local church look like in 2049?” Regeneration is simply a movement in which local leaders and members of the Lutheran Church can gather and unite to advance the gospel in this next generation (40 years). This movement will examine who we are as Lutheran Christians in the 21st century, and why it matters. Can we (Lutherans) advance the gospel in this century? How will we do this?

Therefore, the focus of Regeneration I:

Gospel – Clearly and faithfully proclaimed

Church – United in mutual love, common confession, and common mission

Mission – A theology and practice mindful of the 21st century context.

*The focus of such a movement must be on both **theology** and **practice** (being and doing). It must answer two fundamental questions which are directly related to one another. Who are we? (theology) What are we doing? (practice). Many contemporary discussions on mission simply concern themselves with practice, leaving empty models with no substance. Our theology will rightly inform our practice. Practice without theology is utilitarian and manipulative. Additionally, if we simply copy “best practices” without giving a thought to their substance, we end up emulating pre-existing fads and formats.*

*The purpose of **regeneration** is that we put forth new practices and refresh past practices that better the whole church, which are grounded in a fresh approach based on timeless theology. Regeneration means that Lutheran Christians develop ideas, models, and approaches that can be used by others. We believe we (Lutheran Christians) still have something to say. Our heritage and theology allow us to speak the gospel with distinct clarity. We believe this Lutheran voice can bless the broader church and the world.*

The Mission, Goals, and Values of Regeneration:

Mission: A unifying movement of Lutheran Christians compelled to lead the mission of the Church in the coming generation.

Goals: To Lead, Inspire, and Support a unified missional movement originating in local congregations.

Values:

- We are compelled to advance the gospel (Is. 60:3; Matt. 4:23; Rom.1:16; Phil. 1:12).
- We believe that Lutheran Christians are positioned to speak the gospel with great clarity within our current cultural context.
- We believe the church advances the gospel when saints partner (Phil. 1:4,5; 4:15; Eph. 4:4-6) in a spirit of selfless unity (Phil. 1:27; 2:3; I Pet. 3:8)
- We believe that current context drives us to missional action through clear witness, selfless service, courageous leadership, and generous giving.
- We believe the Holy Spirit orchestrates missional movements (Luke 12:12; Acts 1:8; Acts 2).
- We believe the local Church to be the vessel God uses for ministry and outreach.

The conversations at Regeneration I demonstrated a deep desire to actively pursue practices that reflect both our theology and great hope to spread the Gospel. The conversation needs to be continued, therefore Regeneration II.

Regeneration Summit II, April 18th-20th, 2010:

The Structure of Regeneration:

- Discussion-based conference
- Grassroots movement involving pastors, teachers, professional church workers and laity
- Local/regional cohorts
- Shared resources

Who: Christian leaders, both professional and lay, men and women, whom are interested in the next decades of advancing the Gospel.

What: A series of sessions including a presentation with extensive presenter-led discussions where various practical solutions for different contexts are discussed, rather than one fix-all solution. Also, times of renewal through worship and recreation.

Where: Hosted by Reconcile Church Milwaukee, WI @ Brookfield Lutheran Church (Brookfield, WI)

When: Sunday April 18th (registration begins at 5:30 pm) through noon Tuesday April 20th.

Theme: Discipleship: A Gift and a Prized Possession

Session 1: Definitions: *Let's get on the same page as we begin (to be sent out in advance).*

Session 2: Discipleship/Membership: *What is the difference?*

Session 3: Edification: *What is needed to properly prepare the parts to move the Body of Christ?*

Session 4: Whose job is it? : *What roles are appropriate for pastor and laity?*

Session 5: Western culture: *In a culture of individuals how do we promote and instill discipleship?*