



Q: What is Plus One?

A: Plus One is an initiative of the Missouri District to encourage every congregation in the district to try to engage their community in one new way.

Q: How does a congregation participate in Plus One?

A: Congregations will be invited to complete a participation form by May 1 (Forms submitted prior to May 1 are welcomed). A trained coach will be assigned to work with your congregation. The event that launches Plus One will be our Mission Summit on June 3 at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Congregations that have representatives attend will meet their coach at Mission Summit (or soon thereafter).

Q: Is this a program?

A: No. Plus One will look different in every congregation and in every community. Looking at the unique communities and the unique congregations before beginning allows the congregation the freedom to determine how they would like to reach out and serve their communities. Also, each community engagement project is the decision of a congregation.

Q: What is the role of the coach?

A: The coach will first assist the congregation in understanding their community and particular needs. Then the coach will help the congregation to identify their particular assets. Finally, the coach will work with the congregation to identify, implement and evaluate their community engagement effort.



Q: What does this cost?

A: The Missouri District will cover the cost of the coaches. We believe in this effort and therefore have committed the necessary resources to assist all of our congregations. There will be costs associated with the community engagement projects, but the coaches will assist the congregations in identifying potential sources for funding. Also, the Missouri District has set aside funds for Plus One Mission grants, small amounts to assist congregations in their efforts.

Q: Who are the coaches? Do we choose our own coach?

A: The coaches are pastors, commissioned ministers (DCE's and teachers) and laypeople from across the district. They are leaders who are committed to this initiative and have gone through training to understand their role as that of facilitating and assisting congregations. A coach will be assigned to your congregation, but with more than 30 coaches, we will have the ability to make changes if necessary.

Q: What are some examples of possible Plus One Projects?

A: One congregation might consider adopting a nearby public school. This could include providing back-to-school supplies for students, food programs, after-school tutoring, Christmas presents and the like all for the sake of providing opportunities for Gospel witness. Another congregation might offer meals and events for children of Hispanic immigrants in the area. Another congregation may choose to focus on campus ministry outreach or connecting with military personnel. This is why each congregation will begin by looking at their respective community.

Q: Have any congregations tried this yet?

A: There are twelve congregations that have agreed to serve as pilot congregations so that by the time of the mission summit our coaches will have some experience and we will have some congregations that can share their stories.

Q: Why should we participate in Plus One?

A: Our hope is that every congregation in the district recognizes God's call to be salt and light in the world. Plus One is an initiative that allows every congregation to reach out to their community with the gifts that the Lord has given to them as Christ seeks and saves the lost through each congregation. We hope that Plus One is the kind of initiative in which every congregation will want to participate as "Faithful Witnesses" where the Lord has placed us.



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD