



The Future is Now

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- Rev. Paul Werner, Missionary at Large for the Michigan District

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The Future is Now is a three-year celebration which targets raising \$10,000,000 to directly support mission development and recruiting and supporting professional church work students.

The celebration is designed to praise God for the opportunity and impact of ministry over the last 125 years and to provide His people a way to return thanks for the abundant blessings they have received, thus ensuring that the legacy begun so many years ago will be here for future generations.

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“The focus is to provide resources so that we can stay about the business of planting churches and staffing them so that the Church and the Michigan District will continue to grow, not for the sake of its own growth, but that it will reflect additional souls won for Jesus Christ.”

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Intentional Mission Development

Even though there are 235,000 individuals in over 380 congregations in the Michigan District, the need for intentional mission development to reach out to the lost with the saving Gospel message of Jesus Christ is urgent today. There are many areas in the state in which 50% or more of the people are unchurched. It is in these areas that the District seeks to fulfill the goal of beginning new mission congregations.

With this enormous need for mission starts and in response to the 125 years of blessings that God has bestowed on His people, the Michigan District seeks to raise \$5,000,000 to begin ten additional mission starts over the next five years, one urban mission start, and place funds into the Michigan District Endowment Fund for Mission Development.

Professional Church Worker Support

In 2007, over 175 Michigan District professional church work students again attended our universities, colleges, and seminaries. Yet the need for professional church workers at this time in the history of the church cannot be overstated. In the past, support for these students has averaged about \$400 per year. For the 2007-2008 school year, average scholarships have increased to \$750 per student from funds made available from the Thank Offering.

The goal is to raise \$5,000,000 to substantially increase the financial support offered to professional church worker students and to add to the Michigan District Endowment for Professional Church Workers.

A secondary objective of this effort is to increase the number of students, now and in the future, in Concordia University System schools, especially our own Concordia University Ann Arbor. Through the added financial incentive, the District seeks to assist Concordia University Ann Arbor with additional funding for scholarships, students, and support of the individuals and congregations of the District. It is the hope of the District that many will answer the call to be professional church workers for the Lord.

For more information about The Future is Now, please contact Ray Zavada in the District Office at (734) 665-3791 or (888) 225-2111.

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