

A Thumbnail Summary of the Discernment Process

Our 12-member Discernment Team presented a thumbnail sketch of the work they have been doing the past six weeks at the 'Happy Birthday Mt Hermon Party' April 25th. After reading, praying, and working with the data gathered in January and February from our 18 Discernment Process Groups (over 146 people), the team presented a Sonogram of what God wants to birth at Mt Hermon. So was it a girl? A boy? Twins? **Actually, we are expecting triplets!** For naming this birth we took our cue from the gospel (Matt 28:19&20) "Go make disciples!" In our own words: "Make Christ Known - in self, wor(l)d and deed!"

We discovered God is ready to birth three Kingdom-building adventures.

- (1) **To continue building God's Kingdom at Mt Hermon** by: (a) completing our transition from an overstuffed "Pastoral-size Congregation" to a fully functioning "Program-sized Congregation" (225-450 attendees); (b) to become an ELCA "Book of Faith" congregation; (c) to become a "Ministry in Daily Life" congregation.
- (2) **To continue to build God's Kingdom in our community** by: (a) developing a holistic Hispanic Ministry; (b) planting a mission congregation in Harrisburg; (c) starting a children and family-oriented ministry at A.T. Allen.
- (3) **To be intentional in nurturing God's Kingdom to grow measurably within each one of us**, in our faith, spirituality, personality, and daily walk. This includes: (a) deepening our personal relationships with Christ; (b) growing in our understanding and practice of biblical and Lutheran values and principles (e.g. teacher and leader training); (c) discovering and employing our spiritual gifts and SHAPE for ministry.

Next, the Discernment Team will meet again, read and share the reflections and reactions of the participants from the birthday gathering, gather more input from the congregation through further dialogue, and present our shared vision, a couple of time-line options, and action-step proposals.



The 2009 Discernment Team (left to right): Rick Grochoske (8:30 service); Ruth Garde (9:55); Jason Van Buskirk (9:55) Tom Milke (11); Kim Sholly (8:30); Phil Roman (11); Dawn McHale (9:55); Linda Beauregard