

## Synod Council Report on Vitality Committee September 2021

The Vitality Committee has learned how to be flexible and open to new experiences since we never know quite what is down the path with this pandemic.

**Grants:** We have been able to recommend for approval \$13,500 in Linn Fund Grants and \$8000 in Great Commission Matching Fund Grants. These were addressing technology needs in congregations as well as Food Insecurity issues. The Southeastern Synod is generous and outreach oriented, even in these uncertain times.

**Mission Developers:** – while we won't be able to have our Developers Retreat, we did have an opportunity to meet with 5/6 of our Developers to do their annual Review and they are doing great stuff in these Mission Developments. The energy and enthusiasm for ministry is still on high even though we aren't sure what the future holds, we know that God is with us! We will catch up with our 6<sup>th</sup> Developer this month and finish those reviews for this year so we have an idea for planning in 2022.

**Partners in Celebration:** Our focus ministries have received donations to support their ministry efforts. Our third quarter focus was on Peace Lutheran Church in Memphis and their food ministry. They are renovating their building after severe flooding in the Spring and continuing to serve food to those in the community who depend on them for groceries and lunches twice a week. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. Good Samaritan Lutheran Mission will be the focus for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**Unbinding Your Heart:** We have had about 10 congregations complete Unbinding Your Heart, maybe more, and others are in the process. We have a review process on the Southeastern Synod Website Evangelism page. If your congregation has completed Unbinding . . . please send your members to that page to let us know how it went for you. We have additional books and can mail them to any church to go through this process. It works, it brings people closer together and it reminds us why we have good news to share with others. God loves us and calls us to love each other!!

**Stay tuned for next year's Vitality Event** – We are planning an event in multiple locations so people don't have to travel long distances. We'll have speakers, small group conversations and Vitality on our mind! As soon as we have a date, we will let you know.

Enthusiastically submitted,

*Pastor Patti*

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& Director of Evangelical Mission