Circuit Ministry 2.0

*Imagining*

**Wisconsin** Circuit Ministry anew
A New Day for Circuit Ministry

2014 marks the first conference-wide upgrade.

Circuit Ministry 2.0 is derived from extensive listening, learning, and careful analysis about what is working and what is not working.

The assessment includes data from all circuits.
A New Day for Circuit Ministry

Beginning in 2014
the focus of Circuit Ministry
will be on the implementation of

Imagining Wisconsin Anew
Is the Upgrade a Relaunch or an Adjustment?
Is the Upgrade a Relaunch or an Adjustment?

Your experience of change with this upgrade depends on the version of Circuit Ministry you currently use – the way you currently practice.

It is not the same everywhere in Wisconsin.
Is the Upgrade a Relaunch or an Adjustment?

For a few circuits this builds on current practice.

This upgrade offers a clarification of purpose involving little change in circuit configuration, organization or function.

fine tuning to conference vision
Is the Upgrade a Re-launch or an Adjustment?

For some this is an adjustment that narrows expectations and builds on current practices with new training.

refocus on core purpose
Is the Upgrade a Relaunch or an Adjustment?

For some this is an opportunity to engage laity or clergy with a clearer sense of expectation or outcome.

*reboot to launch missing half*
Is the Upgrade a Relaunch or an Adjustment?

For some this is an opportunity to reconfigure or realign to work with a more realistic geographic region.

relaunch with major adjustment
Is the Upgrade a Relaunch or an Adjustment?

For some this is an opportunity to stop doing practices that do not produce new ministries or encourage healthier spiritual leadership.

pause – control/alternate/delete
Is the Upgrade a Relaunch or an Adjustment?

For many this is a complete relaunch with more guidance and training, and more clearly defined laity and clergy roles.

relaunch – system reboot
Is the Upgrade a Relaunch or an Adjustment?

Circuits will be worked with individually rather than engaged in a generalized one-size-fits-all approach to training.

(Note: 2014 Open Events for Transparency and to Establish a Common Language for Training)
Are Circuits Ministry Producing Units or Administrative Structures?
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Circuits with existing and established mission and programs that are currently working are encouraged to continue them.
Are Circuits Ministry Producing Units or Administrative Structures?

Circuits without existing ministry intentions in their region will be realigned and trained for this purpose.
Are Circuits Ministry Producing Units or Administrative Structures?

The practice of using Circuits for administrative or supervisory functions attached to the Cabinet will end.
Are Circuits Ministry Producing Units or Administrative Structures?

The role of the appointed Clergy Circuit Leader will not include proxy District Superintendent functions.

The Clergy Circuit Team Leader will facilitate a Clergy Circuit Team to focus on doing ministry.
Are Circuits Ministry Producing Units or Administrative Structures?

The role of the Lay Circuit Leader will be to lead a Laity Circuit Team and facilitate collaboration with the Clergy Circuit Team.
Is the Function of Clergy and Laity Circuit Teams the Same?
Is the Function of Clergy and Laity Circuit Teams the Same?

The answer to this question is no.

They are complimentary, intended for partnership and collaboration, but they are not the same.

They have differentiated functions.
A Clergy Circuit Team will meet regularly and separately for distinct clergy leadership development and training, peer support and accountability.

This is a closed professional mutual support group for clergy.
Is the Function of Clergy and Laity Circuit Teams the Same?

A Laity Circuit Team will meet regularly and separately for distinct laity leadership development and training, and to imagine collaborative strategies for new externally focused ministries in their region.
Is the Function of Clergy and Laity Circuit Teams the Same?

Laity Circuit Teams and Clergy Circuit Teams will collaborate to design and implement the new ministry strategies proposed by the Laity Circuit Team.
New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Programs and Events?
New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Programs and Events?

The function of the Laity Circuit Team is to study the region, and imagine new ways to reach new people based on demographic reality, changes, and the limitations and strengths of the existing ministries and congregations.

As a “think tank” they generate new ideas.
New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Programs and Events?

The Laity Circuit Team explores design and implementation options of their new idea by meeting with the Clergy Circuit Team for the purpose of embedding the new ministry idea in local congregations or strategic collaborations.
New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Programs and Events?

New ministries will be connected to existing congregations when willingness and capacity is developed.
New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Programs and Events?

Congregations accept the ministry, then plan and implement, while the Laity Circuit Team moves on to new ideas.
New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Programs and Events?

Why embed and not implement as Circuit Team?

In the United Methodist Church local churches are understood as vital centers of mission and ministry, not circuits.
New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Programs and Events?

Why embed and not implement as Circuit Team?

New people connecting through new ministries need to be connecting with existing churches or new congregations.
New Ministry Idea Think Tanks or Planners of Programs and Events?

Why embed and not implement as Circuit Team?

New ministries that could become new faith communities are to be coordinated through District Strategy Teams.
Circuits as Learning Academies?
Circuits as Learning Academies?

*New ministries with new people* remains the intended outcome of Circuit Ministry 2.0.

What is new is focused guidance for Circuits provided by the conference visioning document *Imagining Wisconsin Anew*. 
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Circuits 2.0 will look for ways to help local congregations

“Engage Our Multicultural Communities”
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Engage Our Multicultural Communities

Local training will be provided to Laity Circuit Teams on the use of demographic tools and ethnographic methods to better understand regional changes and see new opportunities.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Engage Our Multicultural Communities

Training will include guidance, support and accountability measures on how to meet and develop working relationships with indigenous, immigrant and community leaders.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

*Engage Our Multicultural Communities*

Clergy Circuit Teams will receive specialized training on the use of community research to build pastoral ministry.

Laity Circuit Teams will receive specialized training on how to use this research to imagine new ministry possibilities with new and multicultural populations in the local context.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Circuits 2.0 will look for opportunities to

“Plant New Ministries”
(new faith communities)
Circuits as Learning Academies?

*Plant New Ministries*

Training in the use of demographic tools and ethnographic methods will be provided specifically to Laity Circuit Teams for the purpose of identifying potential new faith communities.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Plant New Ministries

This is related to the general purpose of the Laity Circuit Team as it imagines new ministry possibilities; it may also imagine the need for a new congregation.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Plant New Ministries

Working with this possibility on the local level affords an opportunity for the existing congregations in a circuit to be challenged with claiming a sponsor role or an extension campus relationship to a new ministry start at an early stage, leading to a stronger case for such a recommendation to the District Strategy Team.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

*Plant New Ministries*

Circuits would be involved to identify partners and partner congregations.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Circuits 2.0 will support the
“Launch of Turnaround Movement
with Vital Congregations”
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Launch of Turnaround Movement with Vital Congregations

The basic joint training for Laity Circuit Teams and Clergy Circuit Teams together is on what it means to organize a local congregation as a Discipleship System.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Launch of Turnaround Movement with Vital Congregations

Congregations able to understand and practice ministry as such a process (seek, engage, equip, deploy) will be more prepared to hear, accept, engage, and act on recommendations from the Laity Circuit Team for new ministry possibilities and collaborations.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Launch of Turnaround Movement with Vital Congregations

The Clergy Circuit Team would be the forum for support and accountability conversation about local church aspects of Vital Congregations (worship, new members, small groups, mission and outreach, and giving).
Launch of Turnaround Movement with Vital Congregations

The Laity Circuit Team will stay focused on the discovery of new ministry possibilities that may be beyond the current vision of any of the local congregations.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Circuits 2.0 will

“Imagine Mercy and justice Ministries in both Rural and Urban Communities”
Circuits as Learning Academies?

*Imagine Mercy and justice Ministries in both Rural and Urban Communities*

Laity Circuit Teams will learn about and connect with local movements, interfaith networks and community based ministries in their community study.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

*Imagine Mercy and justice Ministries in both Rural and Urban Communities*

They are to imagine what United Methodist participation would look like and accomplish, and to make recommendations regarding involvement.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Imagine Mercy and justice Ministries in both Rural and Urban Communities

Laity Circuit Teams will also look for unmet needs and unique ministries of justice and mercy for United Methodists that ecumenical collaboratives and other community ministries do not currently address.
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Circuits 2.0 will look for ways to

“Create Soul Food in Wisconsin”
Circuits as Learning Academies?

Create Soul Food in Wisconsin

Laity Circuit Teams can find ideas to guide their thinking about creative food ministries such as urban or community gardening, food pantries and shelters, connecting with and welcoming migrant workers, or ecology and stewardship of the environment.
Training for Circuit Ministry 2.0
Training for Circuit Ministry 2.0

Circuit 2.0 training will be organized through the Coordinator of Circuit Ministries using resources of the Discipleship Leadership Council and the Ministry and Outreach Staff.

Training will be provided locally, and tailored to the current state of development in each circuit.

*Circuit Realignment questions will be resolved on a case by case basis prior to new training.*
Training for Circuit Ministry 2.0

Training focus for Clergy Circuit Teams:

a: Congregation as Discipleship System
b: Community Research – practical use of Demographic and Ethnographic Methods
c: Off-Stage Leadership – a guided Support and Accountability Process
d: Practicing the Clergy Covenant – general support and accountability, team building
Training for Circuit Ministry 2.0

Training focus for Laity Circuit Teams:

a: Congregation as Discipleship System
b: Community Engagement
c: How to locally and collaboratively implement *Imagining Wisconsin Anew*
d: Developing cooperative and collaborative ministry (models and methods)
Training for Circuit Ministry 2.0

Training focus for Laity Circuit Teams:

e: How to identify new mission and ministry possibilities

f: How to coordinate with District Strategy Teams for new faith community starts
Training for Circuit Ministry 2.0

Circuits will receive training and consultation based on a priority ranking:

Tier One: Circuits that already involve laity and that are functioning – assistance in adaptation

Tier Two: Circuits in key population and church growth areas where District Strategy Teams see new church starts
Training for Circuit Ministry 2.0

Circuits will receive training and consultation based on a priority ranking:

Tier Three: Circuits demonstrating readiness by local initiative (the Laity Circuit Team selected)

Tier Four: Circuits demonstrating readiness with conference staff initiative (the Laity Circuit Team selected)
Benchmarks Toward Success as Ministry Producing Units
Benchmarks Toward Success as Ministry Producing Units

Laity Circuit Team
Benchmarks Toward Success as Ministry Producing Units

• Clergy Circuit Team identifies leadership for Laity Circuit Team
• Laity Circuit Team is established
• Laity Circuit Team is meeting and involved in training components
• Laity Circuit Team studies local community demographics, identifies population change
Benchmarks Toward Success as Ministry Producing Units

• Laity Circuit Team engages community with ethnographic methods to learn about existing ministry and the needs
• Laity Circuit Team develops ideas for new ministries
• Laity Circuit Team and Clergy Circuit Team consult on ideas and identify strategic collaborations for referral to implement
Benchmarks Toward Success as Ministry Producing Units

• Laity Circuit Team and Clergy Circuit Team work with selected congregations to embed the idea and/or refer the idea to District Strategy Team

• Local Congregations work with each other collaboratively to develop a new ministry plan including leadership and financial support

• Laity Circuit Team seeks next new possibility
Benchmarks Toward Success as Ministry Producing Units

Clergy Circuit Team
Benchmarks Toward Success as Ministry Producing Units

• Clergy Circuit Team meets regularly and trains with Laity Circuit Team on the Congregation as Discipleship System

• Clergy Circuit Team meets regularly and trains together for doing Community Research

• Clergy Circuit Team establishes support and accountability rubric for Off-Stage Leadership
Benchmarks Toward Success as Ministry Producing Units

• Clergy Circuit Team develops professional collegiality toward shared leadership and team ministry
• Clergy Circuit Team collaborates with Laity Circuit Team to present ministry ideas in local congregations
• Clergy Circuit Team works with congregations to engage in new ministries
Circuit Ministry 2.0

Imagining

Wisconsin Circuit Ministry Anew