



# LCMS Kansans share ideas for the next triennium

Last November, Kansas District staff toured the state, seeking input from church workers and laypeople on “Living as the Baptized” as a possible focus for the next triennium. Each tour stop was unique, but some common themes emerged.

The district staff visited six cities — Manhattan, Hays, Dodge City, Wichita, Iola and Mission — and asked members of LCMS congregations to reflect on what it means to live as the baptized. What is our calling as the “royal priesthood”?

At the beginning of each event, the staff shared some initial thoughts on the subject, identifying four elements of our calling as a district:

- ▶ Abiding in the Word
- ▶ Connecting in Christ
- ▶ Equipping the Saints
- ▶ Engaging in God’s Mission

Attendees were then put into small groups and asked to reflect on those elements in their own congregations

and note blessings, challenges and opportunities. After sharing their ideas individually, group members worked together to identify their top three suggested priorities for the district in the 2022-25 triennium.

The process yielded 9 to 12 priorities from each location. Some were unique (for example, “Address the shortage of organists”), while others were mentioned in some variation multiple times. Among the priorities echoed repeatedly:

**Provide resources for youth and young adults.** Priorities include retention of young people, campus ministry and raising up the next generation of leaders.

**Motivate people to come to church/get involved.** “Core groups” were identified as a blessing in our congregations. How can we reach inactives and get other members more involved in the life of the church? What about members we’ve lost to other denominations (like evangelical churches)?

**Equip people to be disciples.** Ideas here include teaching to do rather than just teaching to know and providing resources and examples of their use.

**Strengthen connections** through creative partnerships, networking opportunities and attention to district/congregational relationships.

**Recruit and support church workers.** We couldn’t do what we do without church workers, many of whom are spread thin. How can we help?

The district staff and board of directors will be working through this feedback and developing ideas for next steps in the coming months.

In the meantime, you can view a more detailed overview of the district tour feedback at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org). Go to “President’s Office” and select “Living as the Baptized” in the drop-down menu.