

vision ^{TO} action Intro Guide

What types of projects might V2A consider? No doubt you've already noticed, innovation is key. Also key is a project's focus on evangelism. Growing the church. There are lots of vital ministries to pursue that serve our communities and are important...and V2A applauds them all! However, V2A is laser-focused on introducing increasing numbers of people to the gospel message and to forming new faith communities. As the V2A Grant Team reviews proposals, an overarching question is always: *what are the specific ways people are being invited into a relationship with God through this initiative?*

V2A is looking for out-of-the-box ideas that fit into one of the 2024 goals below, and also create new opportunities to share the gospel. Beyond that, the best ideas are the ones that surface through *your* dreaming, research, and discernment.

GOAL 1: SHARING CHRIST: Focusing on Creating Community

This goal emphasizes inviting others into relationship with Jesus and the Christian community. Projects under this heading will share the gospel message both inside the congregation or organization, and beyond its walls.

Examples of possible projects:

- Dinner church for the arts community, focused on spirituality and artistic expression
- Gospel in the Garage: a men's group that fixes cars, followed by a meal and Bible-centered discussion
- Developing a community around an interactive prayer podcast

GOAL 2: VITAL CONGREGATIONS: Developing Congregations and Organizations as Innovation Centers

Vital congregations/ministry partners are ones that have adaptive mindsets—releasing what is not working, and building upon that which brings growth, energy, and reconciliation. Through this goal, V2A is positioning the synod to be vibrant and open to new ways of being church.

Examples of possible projects:

- Creating a partnership with another congregation or ministry partner to create a new, shared activity to reach the spiritual needs of a new demographic
- Sponsoring a “think tank” retreat for a group of churches that want to pursue innovative, new ministries
- Training ministry leaders in how to guide institutions through change, followed by an implementation of the leadership skills gained

GOAL 3: MAKING DISCIPLES: Re-focusing Congregational Practices on Discipleship and Lifelong Learning rather than Membership.

Like the first goal, this one focuses on deepening faith. It encourages a movement away from a membership mentality to one of discipleship—understanding that living the response to one’s baptismal promises is a lifelong, everyday pursuit.

Example of possible projects:

- Developing innovative programming that breathe new life into “church landmarks” like First Communion and Confirmation, making them launchpads into a deeper faith life
- Multi-generational storytelling opportunities that grow community and make people comfortable to engage in faith conversations
- Creating a virtual prayer partner ministry between youth and an older demographic

GOAL 4: DOING JUSTICE: Identifying Community Organizations for Partnerships

This goal emphasizes collaboration and establishing partnerships with existing organizations, thereby expanding the reach of the church. Congregations and ministry partners can support others’ ongoing efforts as well as bring God’s presence to the injustices of the community.

Examples of possible projects:

- Establishing a safe house for victims of violence and offering faith-based, emotional and spiritual support to clients of the hours
- Partnering with an immigration agency to offer activities, discussion groups and worship opportunities for new English speakers
- Creating an after-school program for migrant children that features activities for spiritual exploration

GOAL 5: INTENTIONAL DIVERSITY: Growing Churches and Organizations that are Active in their Communities

This goal envisions Lutheran congregations and ministry partners throughout the state, actively involved in serving people of color and being open and welcoming to all people. It is focused on breaking down barriers and creating communities that embrace and celebrate the rich diversity of God’s people.

Examples of possible projects:

- Creating a summer camp for children of diverse backgrounds that also includes parent engagement
- Organizing a Bible study or book discussion off campus that is accessible and invitational to people of diverse backgrounds
- Launching a discussion group/supper club that meets regularly in homes, and is intentionally diverse