

Dreams* and Visions 2010-2017

A Seven Year Strategic Plan

***New York Mennonite Conference—
A multiplying community of new
and renewed Anabaptist
congregations reaching across the state of New York.***

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people;
your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions. Joel 2:28

1. Renewed Churches

- Recognize that God is working in new ways (“Behold I will do a new thing...” Isaiah 43:19)
- Align the church with God’s mission. This calls for a radical transformation of the way we function since the church exists especially for those who are not yet part of it. Those in the church are being disciplined for ministry.
- Utilize the constructive energy of conflict so the church functions in more healthy ways.
- Are sent out in the power of the Spirit living and proclaiming the Kingdom.

2. New Churches

- Plant many (7) new churches starting in Buffalo and reaching across the thruway to Albany and throughout the state. We believe the normal pattern is for churches to give birth to churches. We envision a variety of expressions of church tied together by our Confession of Faith.
- Embrace many ethnicities and peoples, choosing to learn from our global family of faith.
- Establish an urban ministry training center in Buffalo.

These two priorities call us to train missional leaders who serve effectively in this new context. We will recognize, equip, empower and release gifts of people from across the conference.

We will witness to the Reign of God; inviting others to reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ and reconciliation with other people.

The gospel compels us to boldly live into the Great Commission. We will dream of and pray for the empire state’s transformation into his Kingdom state in this postmodern time. As Anabaptists, we believe that this is the time for the message of radical discipleship, peacemaking, and community building to form new and renewed communities of faith across New York State.

*In scripture, dreams are often a means of divine communication regarding the future. (Joseph. Genesis 37-41, Mt 1-2)

Adopted: September 18, 2010