

Mission Objective Priority Setting

The 2021 Fall meeting of the ECORC adopted a Statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principle. A statement of which we can be proud. Within that statement we committed ourselves to a list of worthy Mission Objectives. Making a statement of priority does not lessen any objective but is an acknowledgement that there is current opportunity and potential to move forward on targeted issues. It is also acknowledged that intentionality, directed towards any mission objective, generates interest and momentum in action that benefits all.

To recognize and name mission objective priorities for the 2022 calendar year a gathering was held Saturday morning, March 27. This event was held with an open invitation and participation reflected the clergy-lay and the urban-rural mix of our Regional Council. It is also worth noting that participants include both voting members of Regional Council and lay members of communities of faith.

The process began with mission objectives drawn from the EORC Mission Statement with the addition of developing issues impacting the denomination and communities of faith. Responses from breakout rooms allowed for a ranking of the initial issues as well as introducing additional concerns. Throughout the process the objectives also went through increasing definition, in some cases combining and focusing.

The practice of identifying priorities is to be an annual exercise and will guide planning and decision making. The Leadership Teams of the Regional Council, its members, and our Communities of Faith are challenged to respond to the priorities set and determine desired outcomes, develop action plans, and implement them. The plans and commitments of the Regional Council Leadership Teams will be reviewed and supported by the Regional Council budget presented at the fall meeting.

Arising from the Mission Objective Priority Setting were four statements, not ranked in any order, that should guide the Regional Council. The first two arose naturally from the Vision and Mission Statement and enhanced by the denominations focus on Anti-racism and our own work towards Affirming and Equity. The third and fourth in this list arose in response to issues, needs and interests that have emerged during the pandemic and periods of “stay at home orders” resulting in closed buildings. Current context has suggested that the time is right to focus on these priorities.

- ✓ Diversity and Inclusion: supporting the full participation of all people – with attention to intersectionality (Anti-racism, Affirming, Interfaith, Intercultural, Right Relations)
- ✓ Climate and environment: Living with Respect in Creation
- ✓ Economic Justice and Community Development
- ✓ Investing in new Church Development and Innovative Ministries

Motion:

That ECORC adopt as the Mission Objective priorities for the balance of 2021 and through 2022;

- ✓ **Diversity and Inclusion: supporting the full participation of all people – with attention to intersectionality (Anti-racism, Affirming, Interfaith, Intercultural, Right Relations)**
- ✓ **Climate and environment: Living with Respect in Creation**

- ✓ **Economic Justice and Community Development**
- ✓ **Investing in new Church Development and Innovative Ministries**

And that these priorities guide the work of the Leadership Teams and Forums.