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THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE NORTHWEST IN THE 1980'S  
MODELS FOR CHRISTIAN CONFRONTATION AND INVOLVEMENT

PRESENTED BY

CENTER FOR HUMAN ORGANIZATION  
IN CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS  
(CHOICE)

SUMMARY

A program that will seek to define specific models that will enable the Church to effectively project its ministry of preaching, teaching, baptizing and healing into the world of the 1980's. After a period of gathering specific data about the pastors, congregations and community problems of the Pacific Northwest, selected pastors and laymen will meet in an intensive instruction-discussion program to help develop models for Church action utilizing the congregations, the agencies and the other resources of the Church for a concerted and continuing attack on problems of an urbanizing society.

Pacific Lutheran University has developed a program of action that will take the available resources of the Church and focus them on the present and developing problems of the Pacific Northwest in order to find practical method for building models of effective confrontation and involvement. It is a program that uses this region as the laboratory to develop and validate models that can be used in all other parts of the nation.

The program has seven (7) parts or phases which provide for the orderly growth and implementation of the plan of action. It is based on the recognition of great urgency for immediate response by the Church to the present crisis but it also is founded on the imperative need for sound planning based on accurate data. The elements of the program are:

1. Planning of the Project Strategy.
2. Urban Action Models Workshop.

3. Testing and Preliminary Evaluation of Urban Action Models.
4. Rural Community Action Models Workshop.
5. Continuing Testing and Evaluation of Action Models.
6. Redefining and Implementing of Action Models.
7. Projection of Models on a National Scale.

This program would be administered by the new Center for Human Organization in Changing Environments - CHOICE, at Pacific Lutheran University. The projected budget for the first six phases is \$80,000. This will cover approximately the first year of the program. Implementation of Phase 7 on a national scale would follow the second year and would require additional financing.

#### THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE 1980'S

The contemporary crisis in urban, suburban and rural areas presents a challenge of the greatest magnitude to the Church. There is a growing recognition that new means will be needed to direct the full potential of the Christian Community towards healing the wounds, solving the problems and developing new patterns for a continuing ministry for all of the afflicted. Any program that seeks to achieve these objectives must recognize the importance of clergy, church agencies and the laity in making such a program effective. At the same time it should be noted that the development of such a program must be centered in an organism of the Church that has available trained professionals who can provide the inspiration, the direction, the expertise and the evaluation and follow-through that will insure a sound, practical and operative program.

Pacific Lutheran University has just established a Center for Human Organization in Changing Environments. In establishing the Center the University is committed "to involve itself as a significant community

force in helping to solve the problems of a technologicalized region as a corporate citizen." The University has already demonstrated by projects it has initiated as standing "in the vanguard of those few institutions that have committed themselves to forthright leadership in activating programs that can materially benefit the people who live in the region it serves."

At the same time, Pacific Lutheran reaffirmed its commitment that "the healing Gospel is most meaningfully communicated in providing knowledge, guidance and assistance in binding up the wounds and strengthening the fabric of a community torn by unresolved problems and conflicts that accompany a rapidly changing social order." Further, Pacific Lutheran University "as a Church-related institution must demonstrate its Christian concern for people trapped in the quagmires of our technological society by a positive plan of action. It must embody the Christian ethic in the context of contemporary problems as the responsibility of every individual."

As a working arm of the Church, Pacific Lutheran has developed a program aimed at finding new ways by which the power and talent of the Church may be channeled into community action within the context of the Gospel. The primary objective of the program is effective action by the various segments of the Church (clergy, agencies, laity, etc.). It will endeavor to develop models that will take people "where they are today in terms of training, experience and attitude" and to motivate, instruct and direct them into constructive Christian action within their community. It will seek to integrate the various forces within the Church into channels of cooperative endeavor that will achieve the greatest impact with an economy of time, energy and cost. The program will be based on hard facts that reflect actual conditions within the area so that manpower potentials are directly related to the particular problems that are to be confronted.

The overriding purpose of the program is to develop a better understanding of the Church's new role as "God's Mission to the Whole Man and the Whole Society" and to effectively communicate this understanding into the community. While the program will be limited to the Pacific Northwest, it is anticipated the resulting models will be applicable throughout the nation.

In developing a program to define the Mission of the Church in the 1980's we have sought to find a methodology that focuses on the problems of an urbanizing region on the threshold of rapid population acceleration and the application of the Gospel through new forms and structures appropriate to a rapidly changing society. The seven phases have been defined to permit maximum utilization of available resources and to insure almost "instant involvement" in the problems of the contemporary crisis. The phases are presented in order with the rationale for each step.

Phase one. Planning the Program Strategy.

To discover and develop new approaches to the present critical condition it will be necessary to rethink the Church's mission in relevant terms. Existing structures and long-held theological or institutional orthodoxies should not be regarded as normative or permanently relevant. Rather there should be a "casting out into the deep" to find better ways to make the Gospel a living force within the community. This will require an understanding and appreciation of the problems and the available resources with a vision of what can and must be done. These three steps will be the basis for the grand strategy of the program:

A. Data Gathering

To effectively plan any program there must be authoritative information about available resources. For this purpose a survey of pastors will be conducted to determine attitudes and to prepare capability profiles.

Information will be solicited as to the pastors' understanding of his role as the proclaimer of the Gospel, his role as leader in effecting social change, the goals of Christian mission, his understanding of specific social problems in an urbanizing society, his sense of adequacy or inadequacy in the face of new and increasingly complex demands.

Data will also be sought from the boards and agencies of the Church that are operative in this region so that existing or planned programs can be included in the consideration of new models for action.

#### B. Brain Storming Session

To identify issues, to define problems and to establish directions a weekend brainstorming session will be held in the fall of 1969. Included in this session will be members from:

1. The CHOICE Center Advisory Council
2. Selected pastors and professors
3. At least three persons who have made studies of the mission of the Church in the coming decade.
4. Congregational Social Action Committees.

#### C. Project Definition

To develop the agenda for the workshop it will be necessary to carefully review the data that has been gathered, to isolate the problems that must be confronted and to determine the priorities for the eight-week Urban Action Models Workshop. At this time participants in workshop will be selected.

Pacific Lutheran, an A.L.C.-related University, has a rather unique working relationship with the L.C.A. and L.C.-M.S. It is visualized that this project will have a pan-Lutheran dimension. This would permit the focalizing of all Lutheran efforts within the communities thereby augmenting the resources and extending the scope of the program. These Church bodies are already cooperating on certain aspects of the Center's activities. They are presently represented by membership on the Choice Advisory

Council and this may well be the springboard for including them in the program.

Phase Two. Urban Action Models Workshop.

We propose to bring together 12- 18 Lutheran pastors representing congregations or special ministries to develop the strategy for Church mission. For eight weeks\* during the summer they will be involved in instruction, discussion and research by confrontation. From this intensive period of agonizing re-appraisal of the Church's mandate in modern society models will be developed for Christian confrontation and involvement.

(\*Note: The period could be shortened to six weeks, with proportionately less thorough results.)

Pastors selected will have their expenses paid during the program by the grant. Vicars or other replacements are to be provided by the congregation relieving the pastors to attend the workshop.

Groups of laymen of the Church and of a broad spectrum of people who are not Church-related will be brought into the study-action project in groups of 30 (15 couples) each weekend for two entire days. Room, board and travel will be provided by the Center. Participants will be chosen from such groups as these:

1. Business men (from Urban Coalition)
2. The Professions
3. Governmental structures
4. Education
5. Economic and Racial Disadvantaged (Minorities)
6. Social Concerns Committees of selected Churches
7. Lutheran social service agencies
8. Youth
9. Labor
10. The Aging
11. Other

D. Agenda for the Workshop.

The workshop will be structured so that participants are directed towards the development and implementation of models for Christian mission by:

1. Identifying and defining the problems.
2. Studying and analyzing the data provided by the survey of clergy and agencies and securing further data as needs dictate.
3. Suggesting viable alternatives (what are possible courses of action in view of the facts.).
4. Divising goals and formation of policy.
5. Suggesting designs for action (models)
6. Suggestions for implementation of designs.
7. Construction of devices for evaluation, feedback and review.

Phase Three. Testing and Preliminary Evaluation.

Following the workshop on Urban Action Models the staff of the PLU Center will develop and maintain a process of continuing follow up on the progress of the implementation of models which were proposed at the workshop. It is visualized that the activation of the several new models for Christian ministry will proceed at a different pace in each location with varying degrees of success or effectiveness. The staff of the Center will be available to render assistance to the clergy and laity in working out problems that may arise and in devising alternatives.

Phase Four. Rural Community Action Models Workshop.

It shall be the goal of this project to provide designs not only for the metropolitan areas but also for the rural areas and small towns. This is in recognition of the fact that no area is untouched by the urbanizing process.

A workshop identical in structure but somewhat less broad in scope and of one month's duration instead of two will be scheduled for the late fall or winter of 1970. The goals and objectives of the conference will be made applicable to the rural situation.

Phase Five. Continuing Testing and Evaluation.

Phase Six. Redefinition and Implementation of Models.

The Director of the Center and staff and the Advisory Committee will, toward the end of the first year, review the progress made in the implemen-

tation of new models for Christian mission which have grown out of the two workshops. Each project will be evaluated according to criteria developed by the Center staff and in conference with the existing Church structures (e.g. boards for urban mission, church executives, et al.).

Phase Seven. Broad Projection of Models.

Although the present proposal is designed to consider what issues give the Northwest region its peculiar character, and new models will be developed which are applicable to those peculiar regional characteristics, the objectives of the project and its methodology should have a universal character permitting them to be used in many other areas of the nation.

Note: Section V, VI, VII, visualize the procurement of continuing sources of funds for implementation (for a period of from three to five years).

COMPETENCE FOR THE PROJECT

The Center for Human Organization in Changing Environments (CHOICE), provides a constellation of resources uniquely competent to undertake the proposed program as summarized on pages 3 and 4. More specifically, the resources of CHOICE include the various schools and departments of an urban university:

Schools of Education and Business Administration.

Departments of Social Sciences, Political Science, Psychology, Economics, Religion, Sciences, and others.

Additionally, CHOICE has established working relationships with the regional church structures, involving the three major Lutheran bodies as well as the wider ecumenical spectrum. In fact, the Inter-synodical



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Strategy Planning Committee, responsible for coordinating social ministries in the Northwest, has requested CHOICE to serve as staff for the planning and coordination of social ministries.

The Center is rooted in the wider community, with ties into Model Cities, Urban Coalition, City Hall, Poverty Program, etc.

The Director of the Center, Robert K. Menzel, has a theological degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and a degree in social ethics (M.S.T.) from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, in Berkeley. (PLTS is a participant in the Graduate Theological Union.) He has experience in both urban and suburban parish ministry, as college teacher and administrator, and as director of a community action agency. At Pacific Lutheran University he is also assistant professor in the Department of Sociology.

The Proposal calls for appointment of a "Staff Man," to administer the program for the one year period of its duration. He will be selected for his competence in both theological education and social sciences. If a staff person is added to serve as Coordinator of Social Ministries (cf. second paragraph above) he will undoubtedly administer the project.

The Departments of Sociology and Theology will be particularly relied on in carrying out the program, including:

Dr. Johannes Schiller, Head of the Department of Sociology, who has degrees from Capital University and Seminary, University of Kansas, and The University of Washington (Ph.D.).

Mr. Dwight Oberholtzer, who will receive his doctorate (Ph.D.) from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

Mr. David Knudsen, of the Department of Religion, will receive a graduate degree (Ph.D.) from the University of Chicago in the field of contemporary systematic theology, and will join the faculty in July, 1969.

In addition, resource people from the faculty in the areas of

economics, business administration, education, student personnel, as well as community agency resource people will be utilized.

Consultations with Staff of the national bodies and of the Lutheran Council in U.S.A. are included.

PROJECTED BUDGET

Director (1/2 time)	\$ 6,000
Staff Man	12,000
Fringe Benefits	2,500
Secretarial	6,000
Office Expense	2,000
Travel	6,000
Postage	500
Materials, books	4,000
Stipends to participants	15,000
Board and Room for participants	10,000
Resource participants	
Subsistence	3,500
Travel	1,200
	4,700
Planning Conference Specialists	2,500
Contingencies and Overhead	3,800
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	\$80,000