

North Central Association (NCA) Vision Statement

The NCA exists to infuse every community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- ...as healthy churches
- ...with well trained leaders
- ...through cooperative ministry projects

The Vision Statement Expanded

The North Central Association of the North American Baptist Conference exists to infiltrate every community in North Dakota, northern South Dakota and eastern Montana with the Gospel of Christ. In carrying out this commission in our area, we desire to do so:

- **...as healthy churches**

We envision that our churches will be committed to develop leaders who train and empower God's people to serve effectively using their spiritual gifts (Eph 4:11-15). Such churches are filled with passionate Christians who contribute to inspiring corporate worship.(Ps. 96:9) They expect that the organizational structures and ministry forms conform in both content and function to biblical standards (1 Cor. 14:40; Titus 1:5). Such people are committed to experience life-on-life discipleship in small groups that are committed to express the love of Christ by inviting people to Jesus through community service and a demonstration of loving relationships (Acts 4:32-36; Luke 10:25-37; Matt 25:31-46).

- **...with well-trained leaders**

We envision church leaders (both pastors and lay leaders) to live lives of example while clearly articulating the direction of and reasons for their ministries. Those leaders must cast the vision, inspiring their people to carry out the mission of the church. Church leaders will then have the potential to maintain and practice biblical principles when faced with adversity, protecting the weak, training those with greater potential and disciplining those who would disrupt (1 Tim. 3; 1 Cor. 1:10-17, 3:1-23; 1 Pet. 4:8; Jas. 5:20).

- **...through cooperative ministry projects**

We envision churches networking with each other as they spend time in prayer and research to determine opportunities to impact their communities and beyond with the Gospel. Through a study of demographics, people contact and prayer, our churches will find ways to minister to communities in need of a Gospel witness. Our churches will develop ways to help meet needs in communities experiencing hardship as well as to cooperate in short term mission projects at home and abroad. They will support those who are led by God to minister in other parts of our world (Matt 28:16-20; Acts 1:8, 16:6-10, 26:23).

As we function in this manner we will be able to infuse our area with the Gospel of Christ.

¹ Christian A. Schwartz, Natural Church Development, ChurchSmart Resources, 1998

² James Kouzes and Barry Posner, Leadership Participation Inventory, 1987