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Dean Deans,

In 2008, we as the Minneapolis Area Synod committed ourselves to carrying out a synodical inreach. We committed ourselves to having 1000 significant one-on-one conversations with members of our churches and our communities.

The purpose of the Inreach is three fold:

1. To build relationships across the breadth of our synod
2. To identify new leaders and invite them to lead out of their passions
3. To celebrate what God is doing among us and to discern what God is calling our synod to do and to be in the future

As Deans you are integral leaders of this synod and as Deans it is my hope that you will be integral leaders of this Inreach. Would you be willing to make three or four significant visits with people across the length and breadth of our synod. To equip you for this Inreach you are invited to attend a 2 1/2 hour one-on-one training session. This training session will be offered two times:

- **Saturday, March 29, 9:30 a.m. – noon, Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Hopkins**
- **Wednesday, April 2, 9:30 a.m. – noon, St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth**

Please let Robera Battal know which one you will be attending by calling 612-330-3317 or [r.battal@mpls-synod.org](mailto:r.battal@mpls-synod.org).

Following the training, at our next Deans meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> I would ask you to bring three or four names of people that you are in relationship with whose voices you believe need to be heard. These people can be from your congregation, another congregation or a member of the community. Please use the **Inreach Commitment Form** to submit the names. You can download the form from our website [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org).

On March 13 each Dean will be asked to pair up with another Dean and visit each others people. All of the visits are to be done during the 50 Days of Easter – March 24 to May 11. Following the visits each visitor is asked to file a **reflection report form**. You can download the form from our website [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org). During your visit it is important to focus on the four informational questions:

1. What is our church doing that gives you joy?
2. What should our focus be as a church in the coming years?
3. What concerns do you have for our church?
4. What concerns do you have for our community?

In May you will be invited to a debriefing meeting. During this debrief we will share with one another what we heard during our visits. These debriefing sessions will be offered:

- Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. – noon, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie
- Tuesday, May 20, 7-9 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- Thursday, May 22, 7-9 p.m., Brooklyn Park Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park

The Spring Inreach will end with an Invitational Gathering on Thursday, June 12, 2008. At the Invitational those who made the visits and those visited will come together to celebrate and hear what God is doing in our midst. Make sure that you invite those whom you visit to the Invitational on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. Time and place is still to be determined. To make sure that our Inreach is successful I have asked Pastor Durk Peterson to work with the Deans to carry out the Inreach. Expect to hear from us soon.

Bishop Craig Johnson