

St. Mark Lutheran – West Henrietta

Vision to Mission

Oct 2009



Purpose of Presentation

- **Refresh/Restate the presented vision**
- **Begin the conversation about how we achieve the vision**
 - Walk through one current mission approaching a decision point (i.e. the preschool)
 - Give a nod to longer range potential missions



A Vision for St. Mark

- **We are a multi-generational community congregation that:**
 - Teaches the apostolic faith
 - Encourages growth and depth in that faith
 - Actively engages in the great commission



Vision to Mission: Community

Vision: We are...a **community** congregation

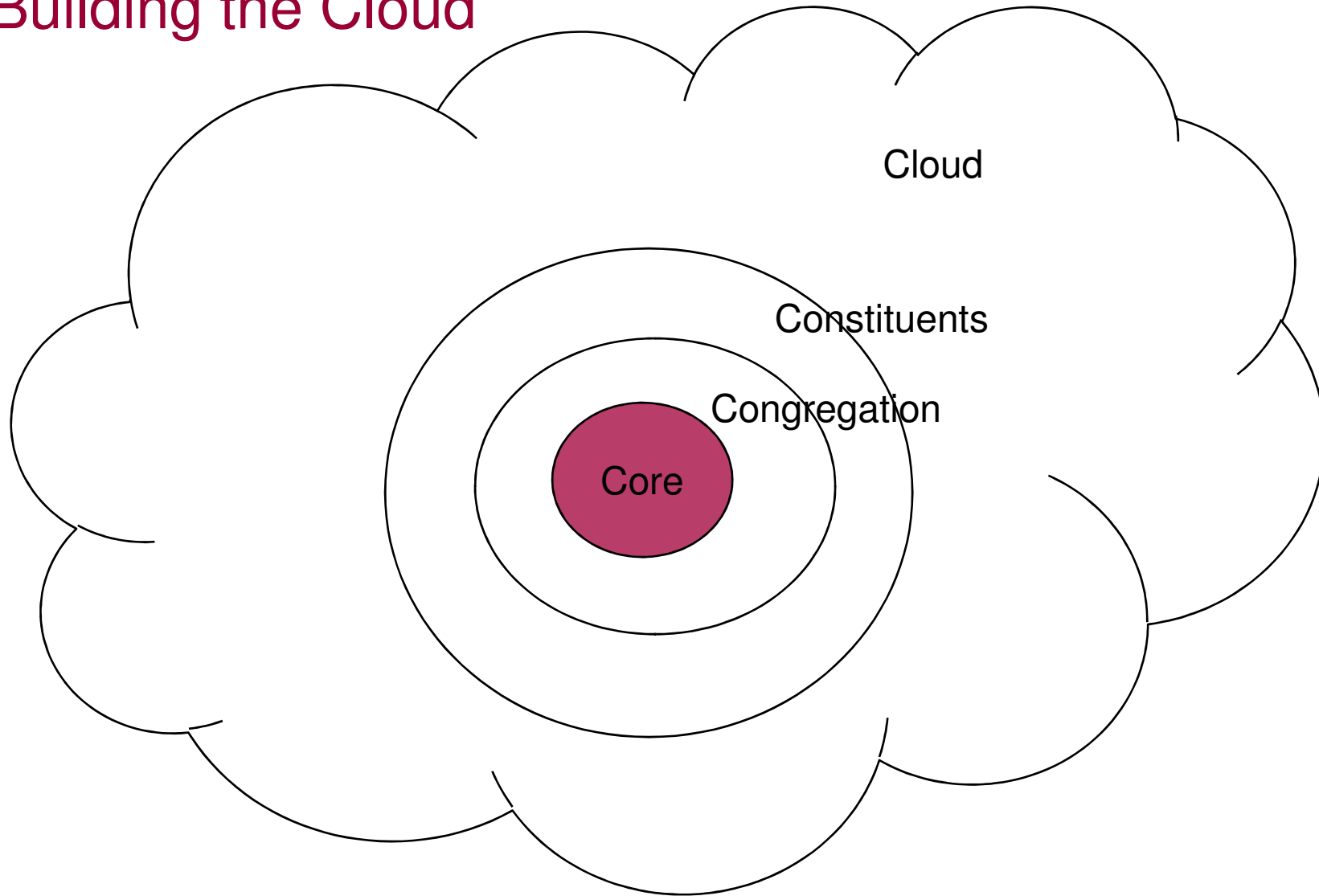
- How does the preschool Build or Serve the Community?

- Gathering the facts:
 - Building “the Cloud” – an organizational concept of the church

 - Where the students come from (place, demographics)

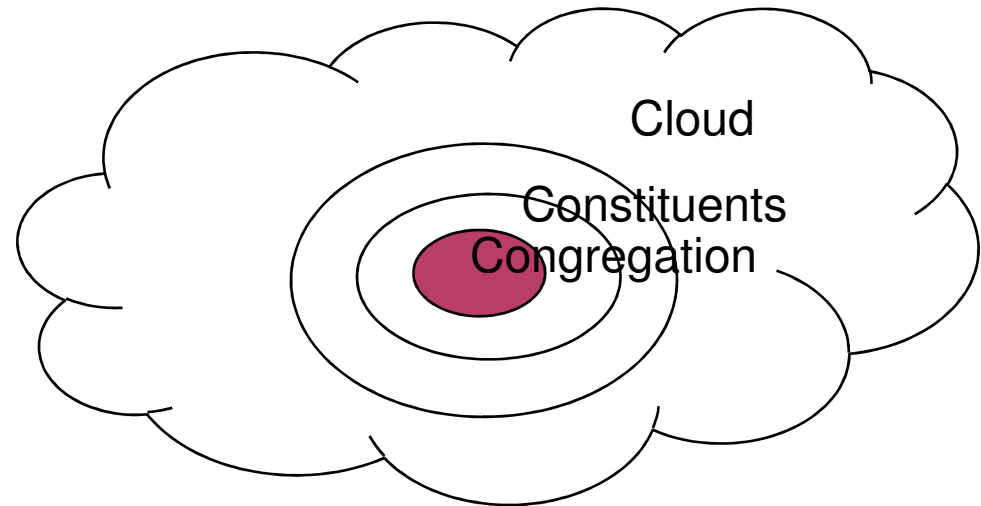


Building the Cloud





Building the Cloud



Core: The active membership

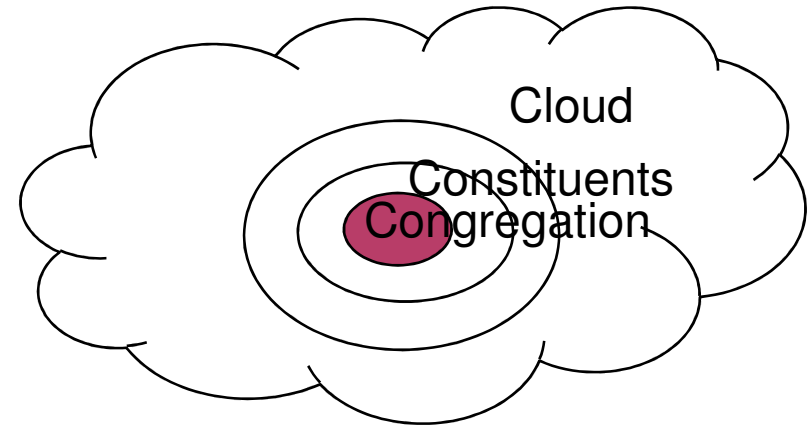
Congregation: The worshipping membership

Constituents: Non-members who participate in activities of the church

Cloud: People in the community intentionally ministered to in terms of their human hopes and hurts



Building the Cloud



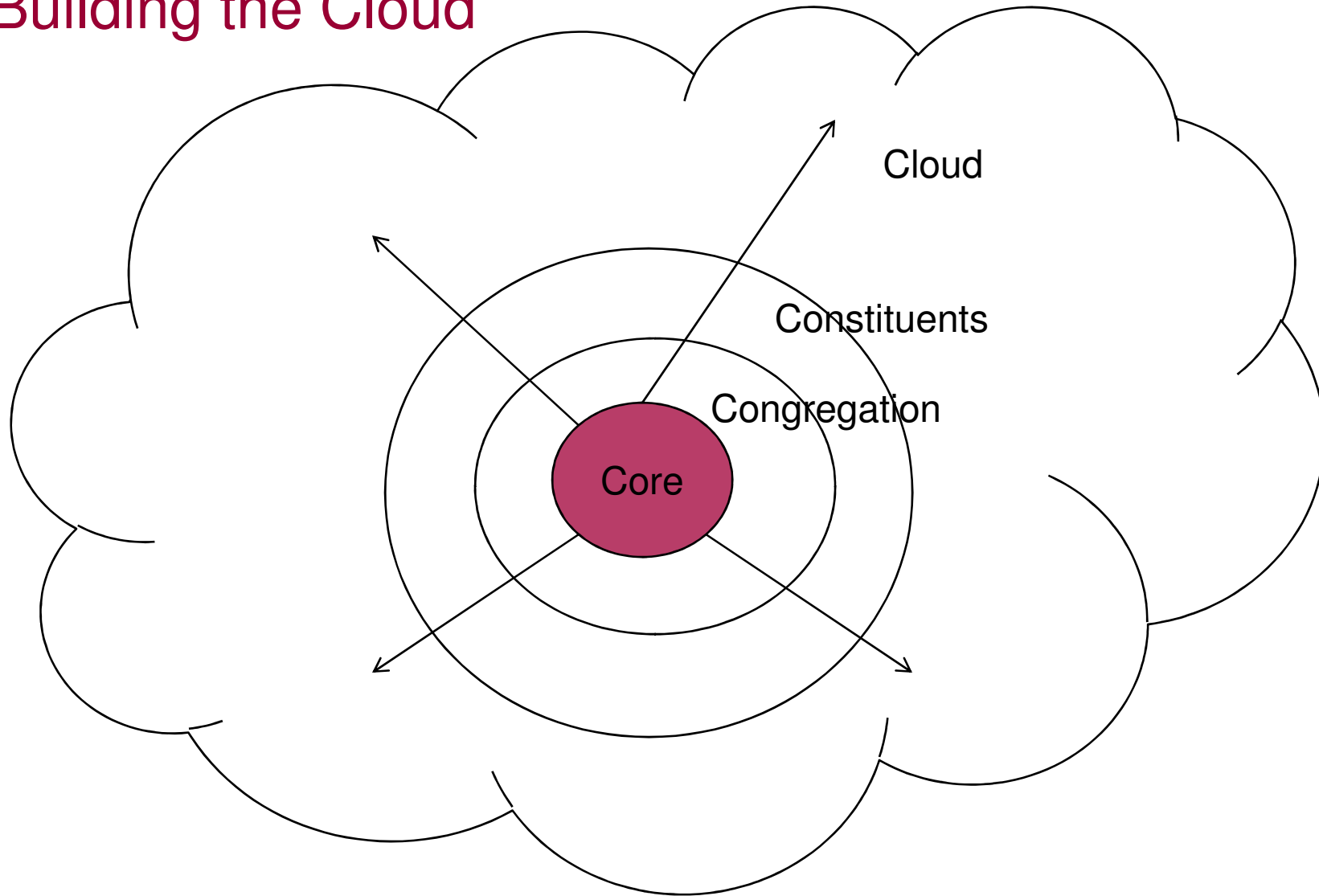
	Congregation	Constituents	Missions Cloud
<i>Rapidly Growing</i>	100	125	100
<i>Stable & growing</i>	100	100	75
<i>Stable</i>	100	75	50
<i>Stable & Declining</i>	100	50	25
<i>Dying</i>	100	25	10

Twelve Keys to an Effective Church - Kennon L. Callahan (1983)

Those at the center have to be externally focused (i.e. actively engaged in the great commission)



Building the Cloud





Vision to Mission: Community

Vision: We are...a **community** congregation

How does the preschool Build or Serve the Community?

- The preschool is one of the missions that reaches and builds the cloud of people we are in mission to and the constituents of St. Mark
- Some of those cloud/constituents become congregants



Vision to Mission: Community

Vision: We are...a **community** congregation

How does the preschool Build or Serve the Community?

	2004 - Present	
St. Mark	9	8%
Church claimed	78	66%
Non-Churched	32	27%

Preschool ministers to the constituents and the cloud – builds community

What else at St. Mark reaches the non-churched with the gospel in these numbers or this consistently?

Zip Code	2004 - Present
14586	52
Other	67

Preschool reaches those around us

	00-01	2003	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Enrollment	43	53	48	39	28	26	22	17	12

Declining enrollment, but still in demand and reaches people

- U-PK starts 1997-98



Vision to Mission: Community

Vision: We are...a **community** congregation

How does the preschool Build or Serve the Community?

Here is a partial list of people currently or in memory who came in from the cloud through the preschool....

McCarroll

Szczesniak

McDonald

Gottschalk

Cosgrove

Mannix

Neighbour

Bialkowski

Waden

Birtsell

Bahr

Herrick



Vision to Mission: Teaching

Vision: We...**teach** the Apostolic Faith

How does the preschool teach the Faith?

Letter from preschool parent...

On March 21, 2008 I took the boys to church. It was the usual Good Friday service with the reading of the story of the passion of Jesus Christ, John 18:1-19:42. In our church (Rush United Methodist Church), the reading is divided into sixteen sections. As each part is read, someone from the congregation comes up to the front of the church to put out one of the sixteen candles. These sixteen candles are the only light in the sanctuary. At the end, it is very dark in the sanctuary, and that really adds to the somber mood that we all leave with one that night.

This was Simon's first Good Friday service and he was sitting in the dark hugging me. As the eighth reading was being read, **he whispered in my ear, "Mama, I know this story and I saw the movie...in my school."** **It brought tears to my eyes that my almost five-year-old, first of all, paying attention enough to recognize the story, and second of all, is in a Christian preschool where he is learning about the sacrifice our Lord and Savior made for us.**

Mrs. Bauchle and Mr. B. have taught all four of the boys in preschool and I will be forever in their debt for the wonderful experience that all the boys have enjoyed. This is our last year with a preschooler in our family. We will deeply miss Mrs. Bauchle and Mr. B.



Vision to Mission: Teaching

Vision: We...**teach** the Apostolic Faith

How does the preschool teach the Faith?

Preschool Chapel

Once a month the preschool day ends with a chapel service. This short service has two main activities: 1) The kids sing the bible songs they've learned for their parents/grandparents and 2) there is a children's sermon which is usually directed as much at the parents as the kids.

Once a month we reach the preschool kids, most of their parents and usually some grandparents with the gospel message. We get to talk about the gospel to those who are constituents or in the cloud in a welcoming and positive environment.



Vision to Mission: Multigenerational

Vision: We are a **multigenerational** community...

How does the preschool help in terms of being or becoming multigenerational?

Age Bracket	Zip Code 14586	St. Mark 2009 Attendance	Preschool Chapel	if Joined
<18	19.1%	19.0%	32%	22%
19-34	34.3%	6.1%	23%	11%
35-49	19.7%	15.1%	23%	17%
50-64	16.3%	21.2%		16%
65+	10.6%	38.6%	23%	34%
Avg Att		60	22	82

If 2008-09 preschool chapel showed up on Sunday morning, the demographics would be very healthy



Vision to Mission: Longer Term

- **People become active (i.e. they move from cloud to congregation to core) in response to true active missions**
 - They also give to support missions; not the institution itself (this is a generational difference)
- **As people encounter the church in mission we have the opportunity to share the gospel (engage in the great commission – vision point #3)**
- **The congregation has the opportunity to grow and deepen faith (vision point #2) in mission**
- **A longer term goal for St. Mark is to develop 3 – 5 mission activities that move the vision to reality (5 yr time horizon)**



Vision to Mission: Longer Term

Some ideas, but hardly limited:

Tax Prep Guidance (shared last year, small interest)

Tool Shed (loan tools or big craft items)

Elderly Transport

RIT related outreach (19 – 25 age group mission)

Parish Nurse/Clinic

Look around the community and what are some needs that people have that would build the cloud



Vision to Mission: Right Now

- **Current mission highlighted is our preschool**
- **Advent of Universal Pre-K changes the environment**
 - Numbers are down, numbers put pressure on finances
- **Congregation needs to wrestle with what is the best course and direction of this current mission**

- **Recommendation to form Preschool Mission Committee to wrestle with and come forward with recommendation for the future of the preschool mission in light of some of the facts presented**
- **Committee to present initial thoughts at Feb Council Meeting**