

Bishop Schnase's Challenge: Commit to doing at least two items from the following list in the year ahead.

1. Identify fruitful congregations within the annual conference and be in conversation with them. For instance, invite the leaders of these congregations to foundation board meetings and learn about what they do and how the foundation might be supportive of their work.
2. Support a new church start.
3. Be a bridge to introduce and facilitate conversation between excellent lay leaders and the Bishop and conference leaders.
4. Visit with the Bishop and conference leadership and ask how the foundation can best be of help. (This is not just a money conversation. There are other ways that the foundations can help, too.)
5. Teach generosity and stewardship.
6. Cultivate learning – share and study books within the foundation board – books on topics that deepen understanding about how congregations work, how change happens in organizations, and about the UMC. The main focus is to develop an understanding of the dynamics and challenges of congregations.
7. Seek out and invite younger leaders to serve on the foundation board.
8. Adopt a clear, practical and meaningful mission statement. Align your Foundation's work in some way with the Mission of the Church--to make disciples of Jesus Christ, renew the church, and transform the world.
9. Reward excellence in ministry.
10. Be a positive voice – the “Ministry of Encouragement.”