

Circuit Witness and Outreach Worker (C-WOW)

In general:

The Circuit Witness and Outreach Worker is a pastor or other synodically rostered church worker chosen by the Circuit Visitor or the pastors of the Circuit's churches to assist with witness and outreach efforts, promoting such efforts on a Circuit-wide basis and in the various congregations of the Circuit. This is an unofficial position within the Synod and District. Its responsibilities largely consist in serving as liaison between the District Evangelism Commission and Evangelism executive on one hand and the Circuit and its congregations on the other hand. Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers need to be acquainted with resources available to congregations from the Synod and the District, and it is important that they can give some of their time to their work with congregations and their Circuit as a whole.

Goal:

Assist congregations in positioning themselves for Christ's mission and actually taking up that mission. Help congregations cultivate a life together that both welcomes strangers and encourages witness and outreach.

Terms:

Witness – individual telling of the Good News about Jesus by a Christian to an unchurched person.

Outreach – organized efforts by congregations to lead unchurched people from initial contact with the church and her members to Word and Sacrament ministry.

Responsibilities of a C-WOW:

1. **Circuit Gatherings:** Encourage and provide resources for the discussion of witness and outreach at gatherings of circuit personnel, e.g., Circuit Pastoral Conferences (“Winkels”), Circuit Forums, Circuit Convocations, etc.
2. **News:** Serve as a communication link within the Circuit for news of especially noteworthy witness and outreach efforts taking place among the Circuit's congregations. Transmit such reports to the District Evangelism executive.
3. **Resourcing:** inform the circuit, its congregations, pastors, and other church leaders concerning witness and outreach resources provided by the District and Synod, including demographic studies available from the District.
4. **Witness:** Encourage and help equip congregations to prepare their members for witness within their own callings in life. (The Synod's “Every One His Witness” basic and context modules can be of great help.)
5. **Outreach:** Encourage and assist circuit congregations both to develop a deliberate outreach approach and to extend their outreach efforts to people with whom they presently have little or no contact. (The Synod's reVitality workshop “Connect to Disciple” can be of great help.)
6. **Training:** Conduct or facilitate training sessions for witness and outreach as needed within their circuits.

Resources for C-WOWs:

- A. Annual one-day training event, perhaps supplemented by occasional additional training opportunities
- B. Monthly e-mail updates from District Evangelism Executive, 9 or 10 times a year
- C. Personal consultation, as needed, with District Evangelism Executive

Approved by CID Evangelism Commission, Jan. 30, 2018

Endorsed by CID at 2018 convention