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Cultivating Generosity

A story from our ELCA churchwide organization

**As you read this story, what connects with you?
How does your congregation create a culture of generosity?**

Throughout the fall our congregations are often focused on stewardship and gratitude for the generosity of members. Folks provide stewardship talks, members complete commitment cards, and sermons are proclaimed to encourage generosity of time, talent and finances. But did you know that our ELCA Congregation and Synod Support Team offers training and recommendations on cultivating generosity?

This past fall, in partnership with the [Lake Institute on Faith and Giving](#), stewardship leaders from eight congregations, representing four ELCA synods, came together for a training series called “Cultivating Generous Congregations” (CGC). Over seven weeks leaders from these eight congregations gathered online as a cohort with the Lake Institute’s trained faculty and each other. Cultivating Generous Congregations maps the new landscape of religious giving and provides congregational teams with tools to build a culture of generosity unique to each congregation’s needs, challenges and opportunities. CGC explores theology, the role of adaptive leadership, fiscal transparency and the importance of giver care, with action steps to impact the exploration of generosity and energize congregational generosity to take the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change.

Following the final session, the eight congregations received a year of access to the Lake Institute’s numerous stewardship resources, as well as optional coaching to assist in the implementation of these practices.

Mission Support funds the opportunity for congregations and leaders to learn from stewardship experts and one another and to grow together so that their local mission, and how God is growing generosity, can be told in more effective ways in today’s culture.