

Gaining Strength

Duration:	April 2026 - October 2027
Cohort 4:	This is the fourth Gaining Strength Cohort being held in NEPA Synod, facilitated by both Rev. Doug Hill and NEPA Synod Staff.

Goals

Gaining Strength cohorts bring rostered ministers together from across the NEPA Synod to form relationships with one another and to equip them as leaders of transformation and collaboration. Some practical tools you will learn include:

- Leading and guiding others to understand and develop Christ-centered individual and community core values, missions, and visions that are embedded across all that happens in your congregation or ministry setting
- Deeper personal and vocational self-awareness and understanding, utilizing Enneagram, Strength Finders, Myers-Briggs, and beyond
- Collegial partnerships that lead to expanded community and congregational partnerships
- Mobilizing congregants through contemplative, spiritual practices
- Riding the waves of cultural transformation as your congregation makes the shift
- Anchor Church as a component of 6261 Ministry Communities and how to join/form one
- Not adding to your workload - instead, gaining strength and capacity by collaboration

Schedule

	Retreat	Zoom session
Apr 2026 - Getting started	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 22-24, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 2026
Oct 2026 - Aug 2027 - Working it out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oct 19-21, 2026• April 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jan 2027• July 2027
Oct 2027 - Wrapping up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oct 2027	

Expectations

If you choose to participate in a Gaining Strength cohort, it is expected that you will be present at each in-person retreat as well as each Zoom session - and it is expected that you will come prepared and have read any pre-assigned materials. The cohort's success depends on members' participation, willingness to be honest and vulnerable, ownership of strengths and growing edges, and commitment to transformational ministry.

Gaining Strength cohorts are designed to help you in the ministry you are already doing; they are not intended to create extra work or "another program" to learn and follow.

Cost

The cost of the Gaining Strength cohorts is supported from the Synod to minimize costs to congregations and individual rostered ministers. Retreat lodging and meals are completely covered as is your copy of "Cultural Architecture." Mileage and other reading materials are typically covered by the congregation. If these are a burden to your participation, please reach out to Deacon Kat Tigerman to explore alternative funding options. Please consider your time as work time or continuing education time.

Questions?

- Feel free to reach out to DEM, Deacon Kat Tigerman at: kat@nepsynod.org.
- Learn more about 6261 and Gaining Strength at: www.godslove.org/6261mc