



A Joint Statement on Our Stewardship of God's Abundance

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Introduction: We believe God is a God of abundance, who continues to give us everything we need to fulfill God's calling in our world. We live in challenging times. Many individuals and congregations find themselves facing difficult choices regarding financial resources. In such times there is always the temptation to hold on to that which seems scarce. We believe this is the time to proclaim the abundance of God. These challenges also present us with an opportunity for bold witness to what God is calling us to do and be. This joint statement is an invitation for dialogue and a call to action for the congregations and leaders of the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods.

We believe: God invites us to be generous as individuals and as congregations.
God invites us to be missional, participating in God's redemption of our world.
God invites us to be the Body of Christ in the world, speaking and working together in proclamation and service, in mercy and justice.

We invite: All the congregations in the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods to be generous in sharing your resources with the wider community, dedicating at least the first 10% of your congregational offerings to the support of ministries outside the congregation, with a minimum 5% to ELCA mission support and 5% to other designated benevolences.

All the congregations of the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods to be missional, engaging in witness, service, and advocacy as you seek to be agents of justice and love in your immediate communities and around the world.

All the congregations of the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods to be the Body of Christ in the world by engaging in relationship with at least one local and one global partner.

All the congregations of the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods to work together, respecting our differences while uniting our efforts, recognizing that we can do more together than we can separately.

We will: Work to provide resources that will help the congregations of the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods in our efforts to become generous, missional, and united centers of God's redeeming love in our world.

Bishop Craig Johnson
Minneapolis Area Synod

Bishop Peter Rogness
Saint Paul Area Synod