

## Overview of the Congregational Cohort Model

The Macedonia Project: *Building Our Capacity to Change the World in Jesus' Name*

The ELCA Macedonia Project is a new approach to stewardship development that will change the culture of giving and generosity in your congregation. "The Macedonia Project: Building Our Capacity to Change the World in Jesus' Name" is an integrated and holistic approach that builds capacity for mission for the long haul while engaging individuals in the transformative power of giving.

In this new Cohort Model twenty healthy, high potential congregations from each of the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods will participate in this 17-month process that began in June of 2011. This diverse group of congregations shares these common characteristics: strong leadership; a commitment to mission beyond themselves; an openness to change and growth. The Cohort Model enables each congregation to take a significant step forward in the development of its stewardship ministry and in deepening its financial commitment to the mission of the congregation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The major area of emphasis, learning, and strategy development will be:

- Building a strong biblical and theological foundation for stewardship development
- Sharpening your vision for mission
- Engaging diverse groups of givers and helping them grow
- Communicating the message: Branding, Technology, Social Media
- Developing Leaders
- Creating integrated Holistic Year Round Stewardship Ministry
- Celebrating our identity as the Body of Christ through the ELCA

Each congregation will be assigned and will work with a stewardship coach. Congregational teams will meet monthly in varied settings designed to maximize opportunities for learning and growth while allowing time for specific tactics and strategies to be developed and implemented in your congregational setting.

The model for the monthly gathering will be:

Month One – Entire group comes together to hear from nationally known speakers and theologians who will bring inspiration and direction to our work.

Month Two – Each congregational team meets on their own to continue work in their setting and context.\*

Month Three – Congregational Team meets with a Stewardship Coach to explore ways to develop and implement stewardship development plans and ideas.\*

Month Four – A cluster of 3-4 Congregational Teams meet as a cohort for mutual learning.\*

The Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods, Luther Seminary, and Kairos Christian Resource Development will provide organizational leadership and coaching for the project.

*\*The order of the second, third, and fourth month of a cycle may be adjusted if it seems to be more advantageous to the process.*

## **First Cycle: Biblical and Theological Foundation of Stewardship June-September 2011**

June: Large group session

- Wednesday, June 8, at Central Lutheran, Minneapolis
  - Speaker was the Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA
  - Overview of the Macedonia Project
  - Each congregation team met after keynote address
  - Assignments: personal money autobiography and congregational money autobiography

July: Congregational teams meet individually

- Meet at team's congregation. Date and time to be determined by the team.
  - Dwelling in the Word: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
  - Share personal money autobiographies
  - Discuss a Biblical metaphor for your congregational stewardship
  - Congregational money autobiography
  - Assignments and next steps

August: Each congregational team meets with your assigned coach.

- Date and time to be determined by the team and coach
  - Dwelling in the Word: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
  - Share with coach the team's work on Biblical metaphor for the congregation
  - Debrief the congregational money autobiography
  - Discussion with your coach around the Biblical and theological foundations of stewardship for YOUR congregation
  - Assignments and next steps

September - meet with other congregational teams that are in your cluster.

- Date and time to be determined by the cluster facilitator

## **Second Cycle: Your Congregation's Vision for Mission October 2011 – January 2012**

October 2011: Large group sessions

- A Thursday evening. Dates to be determined. Will be held at Luther Seminary, St Paul.\*

November: Congregational Teams meet individually.\*\*

December: Each congregational team meets with your assigned coach.\*\*

January 2012: Meet with other congregational teams that are in your cluster.\*\*

## **Third Cycle: Developing Steward Leaders February-May 2012**

## **Fourth Cycle: Stewardship Best Practices June-September 2012**

## **Closing Large Group Session and Evaluation October 2012**

*\*February, June, and October 2012 large group session will also be held on a Thursday evening at Luther Seminary. We plan to have those dates and times finalized by August.*

*\*\*The order of the three months after the large group session may be adjusted as appropriate if it is determined it would be more helpful to the process.*