



Why Participate in this Covenant?

Research from congregations in the Oregon Synod who participated in an intentional congregation vitality process showed these long-term effects. . .

- * Theological imagination expanded - able to articulate how God is active and how they join God in that activity
- * Clarified sense of purpose within God's mission
- * Increased mutual agreement with neighbors
- * Deeper congregational member connections with God, each other, and the world
- * New lay leaders identified and engaged
- * Increased mission support
- * Increased worship attendance

For questions or further information, please contact. . .

Donna Simon
dsimon@css-elca.org
913-948-9701

Kendra Nolde
knolde@css-elca.org
314-973-7531



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Purpose: To help our congregations view our changing culture as an opportunity and invitation to refocus energy and resources toward becoming ***communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another, and the world.****

Vital Congregations are places where. . .

- ♥ Worship is dynamic and authentic
- ♥ Leaders are respectful of boundaries
- ♥ Leaders participate in and engage with their local communities
- ♥ Members treat each other as fellow members of the body of Christ
- ♥ Diversity is honored and respected
- ♥ People are willing to engage in holy experiments & open to change & risk
- ♥ Faith is nurtured
- ♥ Gathering spaces are attractive and inviting

** This is the definition of vitality being used throughout the ELCA.*

There are three different ways in which congregations and leaders can participate in the **CONGREGATIONAL**



Vitality

INITIATIVE.

Congregations of every size and setting are encouraged to participate.

Points of engagement include. . .

Congregational Vitality Covenant:

Congregations that wish to begin an intentional process of growing their vitality enter into a covenant, which involves. . .

- * Completing the covenant form
- * Taking the congregational vitality survey
- * Forming a team of at least 3 people in addition to the pastoral leader
- * Working with a coach who will be trained by ELCA churchwide and synod staff (meeting every two months)
- * Participate in all Vitality Track workshops
- * Developing and implementing ideas, including holy experiments, to become more vital
- * Cost: \$250/year

Congregational Vitality Surveys:

Every congregation is invited to take a congregation-wide vitality survey which helps them understand how they are connecting people to God, to one another, and to the world.

- * Cost to take the survey is \$100 (Remaining cost is covered by a synod grant.)
- * Survey results are shared with council and leadership to provide a starting place for congregations to begin setting goals and priorities.



Central States Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Congregational Vitality Tracks:

Designed for rostered ministers and lay leaders. Each track will be on a Saturday, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at 3 locations across the synod.

Tracks can be taken as individual workshops and are open to anyone. Cost to attend is \$15 and includes lunch

- * Discerning/Listening to God, to one another, and to your community. **(September 15, 2018)**
- * Developing Dynamic, Authentic worship. **(February 9, 2019)**
- * Embracing Change and Leadership: Moving from fear of scarcity to gratitude for abundance **(June 22, 2019)**
- * Dwelling in the World: Looking for People of Peace in the World **(March 7 & 28, 2020)**
- * Nurturing life-changing relationships with God and one another **(August 15, 2020)**
- * Faith Development and Faith Practices **(November 14, 2020)**