

Saint Paul Area Synod Congregational Stewardship Mentoring Program

The Saint Paul Area Synod is launching a congregational mentoring program in the area of stewardship ministry. Church fundraising is an essential part of successful ministry. Churches that are adequately funded are better able to focus their attention and missional imagination on what God is calling them to do both inside and outside their walls. They are more equipped to start new ministries, new partnerships in the community, and to share God's love in new and exciting ways.

In contrast, congregations that are perpetually short of financial resources spend a large amount of their collective energy trying to raise enough funds to keep their ministries alive or even to keep their doors open. These churches are less likely to take risks or to start new ministries and outreach because of their perceived scarcity of resources. In other words, they can lose their missional imagination.

Many congregations and their pastors know they need to enhance their stewardship ministries and stewardship knowledge, but they do not know how to begin that process of growing. They often need someone to help guide them toward a better understanding of stewardship in the world and in their congregation.

The Saint Paul Area Synod Congregational Stewardship Mentoring Program is designed to provide guidance to congregations that wish to grow their stewardship ministries. The mentors for this program are seasoned parish pastors who have a deep understanding of stewardship ministry, a successful fundraising track record, and a passion to help churches be more vibrant and thriving. Mentors are available to meet with pastors and lay leaders in persons for an initial meeting and a follow up meeting. They are available via phone call or email to answer questions or to offer advice as needed. Mentors are not consultants and they do not "take-over" stewardship ministry for the churches they mentor. They are there as a resource to teach stewardship leaders, provide structure for stewardship ministries, and offer guidance to congregations.

The cost to your congregation to participate in the program is only \$250 to help cover the expenses of mentor training and travel. Scholarships are available. If you believe your congregation could benefit from having a stewardship mentor, please contact Bishop Patricia Lull at 651-224-4313.