

WHAT'S A CONGREGATION'S COMMITMENT?

- A congregation has a “Guiding Team” of 4 to 7 lay people committing to 3 training sessions and follow up assignments. Two sessions are online Zoom trainings with a 20 minute break. A third training is at Fortune Lake. The pastor also attends the trainings.
- Cost for Training Sessions is only \$50* per congregation which includes a meal and a copy of Dwight Zscheile’s book, The Agile Church. (Dr. Zscheile was keynote speaker at the May 2019 Synod Assembly)

*The actual full costs of these trainings are supported by a generous subsidy from an ELCA Synod Vitality Grant and a Siebert Grant.

Training Schedule & Themes:

1st Training via Zoom

“Tracing God’s Movement in our Lives and Neighborhoods” **April 10, 2021**
11am to 2pm Eastern

2nd Training via Zoom

“Learning by Doing: Using Action Learning to Discover God’s Leading” **May 22, 2021**
11am to 2pm Eastern

3rd Training in Person “Sharing our Learning: Intentional Reflections on Our Actions”
October 30, 2021 9am to 3pm
at Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp

Coaching

Ongoing, monthly coaching will be provided to each congregation’s lay “Guiding Team”. Separate monthly coaching provided to pastors.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

God entrusts our congregations with all that is necessary to do what God calls us to do. Yes, that may not be obvious to us at first, but by praying together, through careful listening to the voice of God, by being the church, the living body of Christ, we can and will discern those needs in our community that need attending to by us.
(Pastor Keith Kolstad, Zion, Marinette)

The Faithful Innovation learning the Northern Great Lakes Synod has taken part in over the last year is a good fit for wonderers. Part of the “process” the NGLS team has been learning is to go outside some of our usual daily patterns to wonder what God might be up to in people, places of business, neighborhoods, organizations, etc. For congregations this can be an eye-opening experience.
(Pastor Ann Gonyea, Eden, Munising)

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Mt.18:20 NKJV). The Faithful Innovations training provided by our NGL Synod, gave our core group, our ‘Guiding Team’, an opportunity to strengthen our faith together. We gained courage to share our faith more openly with our fellow congregational members & with our community both in action and in words. Through Dwelling in the Word, we focused on what God might be up to in the Keweenaw. The FI training brought us to a place where we could take our own next steps following ‘God at Work’ planning. We went out into the surrounding towns, bringing new life to our Sunday School, sharing meals, bringing a Christ based activity to a local Christmas celebration (right along with Santa). Our own active Church membership is small, but the world around us is a big place where God still has work to do.

(Toni L. Waara, Bethany Lutheran Church of Keweenaw)

Faithful Innovations

Learning Communities of Jesus

FOR LAITY, PASTORS,
DEACONS, AND
LICENSED LAY MINISTERS
OF THE NORTHERN GREAT
LAKES SYNOD



During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. (Acts 16:9-10)

**HELPING PEOPLE
CONNECT WITH GOD,
EACH OTHER, AND
THEIR NEIGHBORS**

The Northern Great Lakes Synod invites congregational lay leaders, pastors, and licensed lay leaders to take a journey with us as we reimagine church in light of today's changing culture. This is a Spirit-led journey in which we are invited to engage the spiritual practices of listening, discerning, experimenting and reflecting.

Key Features of "Faithful Innovations"

- † Dwelling in God's Word
- † Tracing God's Movement in our Lives & Neighborhoods
- † Action Learning Experiments
- † Intentional Reflection



Register and Pay by
April 5, 2021

How will my congregation benefit?

- Training in effective spiritual leadership
- Equipping leaders to discern and respond to God's leading
- Broadening your perspective beyond mere "maintenance"
- Affirming the role of lay people in congregations
- Coaching for laity and pastors
- Training in adaptive communal learning process

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This is not a program to "save your church", but it is an intentional learning process to help you better connect with God, each other, and the world.

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Interested or Have Questions:

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