Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity
A seminar to awaken a spirit of generosity within congregations

You may see the challenges of the economic climate, be concerned about the financial stability of your congregation, and desire to foster generosity among your attenders. Consider The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving’s seminar, Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity (CCCG), which specifically helps pastors and their leadership teams:

- Rethink their role in congregational finances
- Become better stewards of their donors’ gifts
- Awaken an ongoing spirit of generosity within their communities.

Everence Financial and Lake Institute are pleased to announce a new partnership to offer this seminar to congregations at an affordable cost.

The Lake Institute developed Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity based on extensive research. Part of Indiana University’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the institute is committed to having a practical impact with this seminar, which has touched congregations throughout the nation.

“This training is another reminder that generosity as a core value is not innate to individuals, but requires training and practice to become faithful stewards.”

— Beryl Jantzi, Everence director of Stewardship Education

“Adaptive leadership is the practice of mobilizing people to tackle tough challenges and thrive.”

---Ronald Heifetz

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion.”

---1 Corinthians 9:6-7
What you will learn

Most contemporary resources that deal with congregational finances focus on fundraising techniques. *Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity* demonstrates how to “bake the cake” of congregational generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a congregation.

It synthesizes the Center on Philanthropy’s research and practical experience with religious organizations. Through presentation, small group and individual exercises, participants imagine and design their own plan for creating cultures of generosity. The seminar offers a high degree of interaction.

People who take this seminar will:

- Understand the landscape of religious giving based on the latest research
- Appreciate the theological significance of generosity
- Understand the relationship between organizational accountability and generosity
- Understand and process the idea that congregational finances are an arena for pastoral care
- Analyze their current congregational culture
- Design a working plan to implement cultural change to move toward greater generosity

Step 1 - Preparing to participate

It is important to....

- Believe in your congregation’s capacity for greater generosity
- Have a desire to become more comfortable with money
- Be willing to redefine giving in your congregation
- Understand giving to include service, social networks, the sharing of ideas & professional expertise
- Engage in adaptive leadership

Step 2 - Build your team

It is essential that congregational leadership has ownership. Build a team of five to six people.

- Senior/lead pastor (required)
- Treasurer/financial
- Board member
- Business person
- Commission Chair
- Millennial/Gen X

Step 3 – Participate and experience the seminar

- Two-day event, generally Friday & Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Recommended number of participants per congregation: 5
- Recommended maximum number of total participants for seminar: 35-40
- Cost per congregational team: $500 (includes workbooks)
- Participant registration forms (due two months in advance)
Step 4 – Post-seminar accountability recommendations

- Provide your plan for implementation within 3-4 weeks
- Review plan with coach/church relations rep six to eight weeks after the seminar
- Participate in a six month reunion
- Join the Lake Institute on Facebook or Twitter
- Follow the Institute’s blog and e-newsletter, Insights
- Utilize Everence resources as appropriate to plan implementation

You are invited to join The Lake Institute and Everence for an interactive training experience that offers fresh ways to engage the call to generosity, both from a spiritual and practical perspective. Make this the year where generosity is the signature of your members who are informed, inspired and ready to impact their community.

**Priority #4 - Stewardship**

In his words and practices, Jesus modeled an understanding that God is the Lord of all life. Thus, we are called to be stewards of the resources that God has generously entrusted to us for the sake of God’s purposes in the world. As missional communities we will assist every participant in our congregations to cultivate a healthy whole-life stewardship, to care for creation, to practice mutual aid and to be generous in ways which reflect the generosity of God. (*Psalm 24:1-2, Proverbs 22:6-7, Luke 19:1-10, 2 Corinthians 8:5-7, 13-15; 9:6-15; Article 21, Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*)

“Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice of an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder lightening.”

---Karl Barth

Brad Miller & Steve Bustos
Church relations representatives
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