



What E-Connect (Ecumenical-Connect) is:

- A congregational transformation ministry process which involves both spiritual and structural transformation
- An outgrowth of the Connect process developed by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- An ecumenical ministry in Indiana and Kentucky, comprising the ELCA, The Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the United Church of Christ
- A process made possible by a Lilly Endowment Thriving Congregations Grant

What It's About:

- Connecting with Jesus, one another, and the world by lining up the congregation's purpose, identity, and mission with God's vision and plan
- Transforming your congregation by linking the gifts that God has given you with God's vision for the world
- Celebrating and using what you have, rather than lamenting about and focusing on what you don't have
- Finding energy, purpose, and direction through God's work, prayer, conversation, and faith practices
- Navigating change calmly, confidently, and effectively

Who Shares the Journey:

- Congregations who ground themselves in Bible study, prayer, discussion, and action-reflection as they engage in a transformational ministry process to live out the Gospel of God's vision for the world
- Mentors who walk with each congregation during the process, actively listening and asking appropriate questions to keep the process on track
- A congregational E-Connect team who is named and commissioned, consisting of the pastoral leader and four to seven (4-7) congregational leaders whose commitments and caring for the congregation are well demonstrated

How It Works:

- *Getting Started*—The congregation's elected leaders and pastoral leader decide to participate, assemble a team, designate a team leader who is not the pastoral leader, gain congregational support, and sign the Transformational Ministry Covenant provided to them in preparation for the 4 training events (called "Links").

Submit team members' names with email addresses and the Covenant to Carol Webb, Administrative Assistant for E-Connect: E-Connect@iksynod.org.

- *Training Events*—The congregation will engage with a cohort of congregations in four (4) Links (training events), about six months apart. Currently, these are projected to be held via Zoom. A detailed schedule will be provided to registered teams
- *Looking Back, Looking Forward*—A session six months after Link 4 training, the congregation gathers with the mentor and others to look back at their journey and make plans for sustaining their momentum, energy, and transformation into the future
- *Cost*—\$75 per congregational team for each of the 4 Links includes all materials. Congregations may incur additional costs for accommodations and mileage, as appropriate

What You'll Learn—What You'll Experience:

- *Connecting*—Connect with Jesus, one another, and the world
- *Growing spiritually*—Deepen faith, strengthen commitment, and rediscover purpose
- *Telling your story*—Discover how God's story and your story intersect to reshape community
- *Discovering gifts and assets*—Your congregation discovers and cherishes its God-given gifts, which are used to serve neighbor and follow Jesus
- *Leading through change*—While change is hard, it is essential for the church to grow. Learn how to lead through change
- *Crafting action plans*—Teams learn the basic principles of congregational transformation and develop a contextual mission plan
- *Building Teams*—Teams develop into well-formed and effective equippers and encouragers

Desired Outcomes:

- At its very heart, the E-Connect process is centered in the belief that God has provided everything a congregation needs to carry out the ministry God intends for it
- Through the work of the Spirit, congregational members become energized about the Good News of Jesus Christ and passionate about sharing and living the Gospel
- Teams learn the basic principles of congregational health and renewal and engage in a mission plan for moving forward toward God's promised future

Ecumenical-Connect

An Ecumenical Ministry in Indiana and Kentucky

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery

Presbytery of Ohio Valley

Presbytery of Transylvania

Presbytery of Wabash Valley

Whitewater Valley Presbytery

The Episcopal Church

Diocese of Kentucky

Updated 05.05.21

Diocese of Lexington
Diocese of Northern Indiana
The United Church of Christ
Indiana-Kentucky Conference

For more information and/or for scholarship information, email Carol Webb at E-Connect@iksynod.org.