



A CAMPAIGN FOR THRIVING LUTHERAN MISSION AND MINISTRY

FAQ

1. When and for how long can I make my contribution?

Living God's Abundance is a three year capital campaign that will be brought to the 2015 Synod Assembly for approval and, if approved, will officially begin following the Assembly. However, you may begin making contributions at any time prior to the Assembly in May. Contributions may also be given beyond the three year period as well.

2. Can I contribute stock or other property?

Appreciated assets may be given (Stock, land) in support of the campaign. Instructions for the donation of appreciated assets will be developed by the Leadership Team. Other property (jewelry, cars, etc.) should be sold by the donors and then the cash given in support of *Living God's Abundance*.

3. Where will contributions be held before they are used in a Campaign project?

All *Living God's Abundance* contributions will be held in a designated Synod account. We hope to begin converting gifts into ministry as soon as enough is accumulated to begin priority projects in each of the four identified ministry areas, disbursing money according to the designated percentage in each area. The Synod Council and its working groups will make decisions for grants to congregations to support the timing and priorities of money provided for projects to accomplish the ministry goals set forth in the campaign.

4. What happens to the Campaign and its goals if there is a change in Synod leadership or Bishop Mike is not re-elected in 2017?

The seeds for *Living God's Abundance* were planted before the current bishop was elected. This is not "the Bishop's Campaign", but has been developed, endorsed and supported by synod leaders at Bishop's Summits and in other conversations across the Synod. The Campaign will be set in motion by the Synod Assembly in 2015 and will continue to provide momentum as the Synod moves into God's future together.

5. Why are we doing this at the same time the ELCA is having a fund drive?

Living God's Abundance gives our Synod a great way to support *The Campaign of the ELCA* by designating 10% of our campaign to that churchwide effort. Individuals and congregations will also have opportunities to contribute to the ELCA appeal to increase our total Synod response.

6. Is a \$1.5 million goal realistic?

The Synod Council, *Living God's Abundance* leaders and KAIROS consultants believe \$1.5 million is an achievable goal. Success will depend on encouraging many individual gifts of \$5,000 or \$10,000 or \$100,000, as well as all of our 53 congregations making generous commitments from whatever abundance God provides. Other synods across the ELCA have had successful campaigns in the last five years. As the economy continues to recover, individuals who are able to consider larger gifts seem willing to respond to the urgent needs of a synod to do ministry. Together we can do this!

7. One of the goals is to fund additional synod staff person for leadership. How will that position be funded after the capital campaign funds are used up?

The hope of the campaign is that thriving ministries will enhance the capacity of Synod congregations to support ministry in the Synod. In other words, over the several years that the campaign's funds will be utilized, we hope to expand synod support and earmark some of those incremental resources to expand synod staff on a continuing basis.

8. How can congregations already struggling with their own financial needs participate in this campaign?

As a synod we are "doing church together". The goal of the campaign is to create a larger pie. We hope pastors and congregations who are struggling with financial support will see this campaign as an opportunity not only to provide resources for the work we do together as a synod, but also to enhance the resources for their congregational ministries.

9. How do we get congregations without pastors (because they can't afford one) on board?

In the same way, we hope congregations without pastors will see that the campaign will provide resources for their ministries. A principal goal of the campaign is the development of both ordained and lay leadership. That is a resource of the synod that is specifically directed to these congregations.

10. If my congregation is having a capital campaign of its own, how can we participate in the synod's campaign?

Several congregations in the Synod who are planning campaigns are deciding to include a tithe of their campaign for *Living God's Abundance*. Because we believe our theme, congregations may consider the abundance of God's gifts rather than develop a theology of scarcity.