



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership/ELCA Foundation

CSS /AOK Synods

Regional Gift Planner: Stephen E. Phelps, MA, CFRE

ANNUAL REPORT - MAY 2018

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry of providing planned giving services to the ELCA congregations, members, institutions and agencies within the Central States (CSS) and Arkansas/Oklahoma Synods (AOK). The work we do together, inviting every ELCA member to consider remembering one or more ministries of the ELCA as part of their philanthropic giving plans, is so very important to the churches, institutions and individuals we help as well as the future of our church. It continues to be a pleasure to work with and represent each of the partners within the Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership (LPG) of the CSS and AOK Synods. The LPG CSS/AOK Partnership includes: **Bethany College, Camp Tomah Shinga, Hollis Renewal Center, Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Lutheran Campus Ministry of the CSS Synod, Lutheran Campus Ministry of the AOK Synod, The Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, The Central States Synod, Oaks Indian Mission, Wartburg Seminary and the ELCA Foundation.**



Stephen E. Phelps-RGP-working with a congregation

Together, being in partnership with the LPG CSS/AOK and the ELCA Foundation we achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do otherwise. We are Church Together! As our faith matures and deepens, so does the way we support God's work in the world. The LPG CSS/AOK and the ELCA Foundation exist to sustain and grow our ministries by stewarding assets for all the related organizations of the ELCA. Utilizing a variety of deferred giving vehicles offered by the ELCA Foundation, the regional gift planners work with individual congregational members and churches to develop giving plans that reflect family and ministry values.

In 2017, through its network of Regional Gift Planners, the ELCA Foundation created over \$33 million in gift plans with over 100 individuals and families! **The LPG of CSS/AOK Synods saw over 12 church members make decisions for their estate plans by designating over \$3 million for charitable causes. A significant portion of this charitable intent, (nearly \$2.7 million) is being directed towards our synods, congregations and ELCA related missions within the LPG CSS/AOK!**

In addition to working with individuals, The LPG CSS/AOK also works in partnership with congregations to assist them with creating comprehensive **Ministry Funding Plans** which help congregations identify financial needs and goals.

As we gather as a synod to do the work of the church we should consider how we will continue to fund God's work in the world. Some key questions to answer...

Does your congregation have a current gift policy?

Does your congregation have a current endowment and governing by-law document?

Does your congregation have a Ministry Funding Plan?

Does your congregation have a planned giving program?

Do you have a will?

Do you have an estate plan?

We continue to face a major shift in sustainable funding for ministry...having an individual estate plan is essential. The LPG CSS/AOK is here to help you and your congregation meet these challenges! **BEGIN NOW!**

“For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building;”

1 Corinthians 3:9

In Service,

Stephen E. Phelps, MA, CFRE

Regional Gift Planner

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