



Congregation-based Organizing
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

www.elca.org/organizing

To prospective participants in “Vital Congregations: Just Communities” Initiative:

Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm for this vital effort in our denomination to organize our communities around bold and prophetic witness to the transforming power of the gospel! This initiative is made possible by a generous grant from our Conference of Bishops' Ministry Among People in Poverty Committee. (MAPP)

We have received many inquiries about next steps and have come up with the following criteria for case statements. Thus the formal process to indicate your desire to participate is to **submit a case statement AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

The vision for this training is for the MAPP resources to be used in synods to support our ability as a church to minister more relationally and profoundly among people in poverty. The overarching goals are to equip Lutherans to develop and deepen congregations as communities for public engagement through expert training of rostered and lay leaders in eighteen to twenty synods in the arts of leadership development using the principles and practices of congregation-based community organizing.

We ask that you reflect on your Synod's interest in participating through responding *briefly* to the following in a one or two page statement for Readiness and Capacity:

- What are the top 3 issues that you currently see regarding poverty in your geographic area?
- What do you hope to be able to do to address poverty through this training effort on congregation-based organizing from a Lutheran perspective?
- What are the current efforts of your synod in addressing poverty?
- Indicate why you are ready to host the training and outline follow-up commitments that will come out of it.
- Report on your synod's willingness to participate through the action of the synod council, the bishop, or the appropriate decision-making entity for your context.
- Identify key individuals you would want to be point people and participants in the Program Team.
- Name leadership development goals that align with priorities in your synod that you hope to achieve through this effort.

Again, please send this brief description of your intentions as soon as possible via email to me (susan.engh@elca.org). The Leadership Team and I will work with you based on your statement and follow up appropriately. If you would like ideas or need more structure to get started, please feel free to contact me. If you want to call, you can use the ELCA's toll free number: 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2731.

In Christ,
Rev. Susan Engh
Director for Congregation-based Organizing, ELCA Church in Society