

CAPSTONE EXPERIMENTS SNAPSHOT

PROGRAM CONTEXT

Members of the Congregations Lead Initiative (CLI) have completed 18 months of learning, conversation, experimentation, coaching, and so much more. To conclude their participation, 32 congregations planned a capstone experiment and applied for a grant to help fund it. The projects cover a wide spectrum of contexts, and each congregation relates to a unique community inside and outside their church's walls. While this grant process was mildly competitive (i.e., each congregation was guaranteed funds, but not all received the full amount requested) we wished for this capstone experience to acknowledge the work and transformation that these congregations have undergone through CLI. Our hope is that these grant funds affirm their ministries and demonstrate how the wider church supports congregations.

GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Grant Requests Submitted: 32

Total Amount Requested: \$133,450

Total Funds Available: \$85,000

Average Grant Awarded: \$2,655

130+
community
partnerships

Congregations are exploring new and better ways of connecting with their communities through over 130 established or potential partnerships.

20+
Experiment
Types

- Outreach
- Welcome & Hospitality
- Relationship Building
- Congregational Vitality
- Community Partnership
- Youth & Family
- Intergenerational
- LGBTQIA+
- Childcare
- Worship
- Service
- Food Insecurity
- Environment
- Land Use
- Aging/Ageism
- Education
- Mental Health
- Arts & Culture
- Digital Ministry
- Mobile Ministry
- Recreation
- Accessibility

"We are grateful to receive this grant and we pray that our efforts ... bear fruit as we work to share the gospel and can become a learning for other Congregations as well. We have greatly appreciated the structured process of the Congregations Lead Initiative and would be very interested in continuing learning and growing through this type of a process in the future."

FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

"We are excited to share God's love in the community in new ways."

"Thank you [to] all who helped to grow our understanding of what it means to be church today! We are so grateful!"



To learn more, visit
elca.org/CongregationsLead