

ELCA Congregational & Synodical Mission

Partnership Support Review Table Criteria

1. Submission of annual congregational report forms.
2. Synod investment in ministry either through direct financial support or in kind contributions such as the use of a parsonage owned by the synod.
3. Congregational mission support at 10% or higher or demonstration that it is increasing toward a goal of 10% or higher.
4. Demonstration of financial need. Congregations with large endowments, savings and "other assets" will not usually be eligible unless they are involved in a building program or have exhausted legal efforts to remove strictures from trusts and endowments. Congregations may have a reasonable amount of assets available for cash flow and emergencies. Effectiveness of renewal is directly proportional to the willingness of the congregation to invest in it.
5. Congregations with worship attendance under 50 and trending downward will not ordinarily be eligible for partnership support.
6. An indication from the Bishop or Director for Evangelical Mission of the level of strategic importance from low, medium, or high for the synod.
7. A clear, succinct statement of the desired outcome of Partnership Support along with a defined, measurable plan. For congregations already receiving partnership support, an assessment in measureable terms must be included for renewal of funding.
8. Evidence that the plan for the congregation came out of a discernment process and strategy in collaboration with others (i.e. part of synod outreach strategy, ethnic strategy, evangelism team, or conference/cluster congregational leadership).
9. Evidence that the congregation has already taken steps to implement its missional strategy: What study/prayer/action has already started (instead of the congregation waiting around for a grant to help them get started)?
 Questions that can be used to assess this issue - The questions speak to the congregation "as if" they are already in a missional versus a survival/status quo stance:
 - (1) What is God doing in the community? How has scripture informed your understanding of God's work here and now?
 - (2) How is the congregation (grass roots members) already called to participate?
 - (3) How are other church partners – local, synodical, churchwide, ecumenical – and community partners – already being involved?
 - (4) How is leadership already being multiplied and equipped?
10. A brief demographic analysis that indicates the viability of the mission field.
11. Submission before the deadline.