



## WEEK 1: INNOVATION & COLLABORATION

The Greater Milwaukee Synod seeks to raise \$2.3 million for the *Equipping the Saints* Mission Appeal. The appeal has two primary emphases:

- **Innovation and Collaboration:** \$1.2 million
- **Leadership:** \$1.1 million

This is insert 1 of 2 regarding Innovation and Collaboration.

God is calling us to work together in new ways. This has long been evident, but the pandemic has forced us into this more quickly as we have needed to embrace technology to gather as community. We have also deepened our understanding of the need to collaborate as we build stronger partnerships to confront systemic racism so that all may know God's love in their lives.

The *Equipping the Saints* Mission Appeal will help us organize our resources to discover and teach innovative and collaborative practices to both lay leaders and rostered ministers. These practices will build on what we have learned about doing church in new ways, help us grow as places of healing and renewal, and move us forward in our commitment to work for racial equity. A synod-wide learning community will be characterized by bold ambition, responsibility to the community, and collaboration. We will also partner with the ELCA's Innovation and Leadership Lab, which is currently building a movement of innovative leaders across the country.

**Grants to congregations:** Mission Appeal funds will provide grants of up to \$50,000 to support congregations and other ministries which engage in experiments that shape a new generation of church expressions. These grants will create an ever-expanding network of congregations and leaders who innovate faithfully and share best practices as they explore new ways of being church and inviting more people into life-changing relationships with Jesus Christ.

To facilitate this work, some restructuring at the synod office will take place and an administrative support position will be added.

### Summary of Innovation and Collaboration (\$1.2 million):

- Grants to congregations for Innovation
- Outreach for Hope Collaboration Grants
- Synod Staff aligned for this initiative
- Missional Tithe to ELCA Holy Innovations and LSS Refugee Resettlement