



What E-Connect (Ecumenical-Connect) is:

- A congregational transformation ministry process which involves both spiritual and structural transformation
- An outgrowth of the Connect process developed by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- An ecumenical ministry in Indiana and Kentucky, comprising the ELCA, The Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the United Church of Christ
- A process made possible by Lilly Endowment Thriving Congregations Grant

What It's About:

- Connecting with Jesus, one another and the world by lining up the congregation's purpose, identity, and mission with God's vision and plan
- Renewing your congregation by linking the gifts that God has given you with God's vision for the world
- Celebrating and using what you have, rather than lamenting about and focusing on what you don't have
- Finding energy, purpose and direction through God's work—prayer, conversation, and faith practices
- Navigating change calmly, confidently and effectively

Who Shares the Journey:

- Congregations who ground themselves in Bible study, prayer, discussion, and action-reflection as they engage in a two-year transformational ministry process to live out the Gospel of God's vision for the world
- Mentors who walk with each congregation during the process, actively listening and asking appropriate questions to keep the process on track
- A congregational E-Connect team who is named and blessed, consisting of the pastoral leader and four to seven (4-7) congregational leaders whose commitments and caring for the congregation are well demonstrated

How It Works:

- *Getting Started*—The congregation's elected leaders and pastoral leader decide to participate, assemble a team, designate a team leader who is not the pastoral leader, gain congregational support, and sign the Transformational Ministry Covenant provided to them in preparation for the four training sessions (called "Links")

Submit team members' names with email addresses and the Covenant to Carol Webb, Administrative Assistant for E-Connect: e-connect@iksynod.org

- *Training Events*—The congregation will engage with a cohort of congregations in four (4) links (training events), about six months apart. Currently, these are projected to be held via Zoom. A detailed schedule will be provided to registered teams
- *Looking Back, Looking Forward*—In this session, scheduled six months after Link 4, the congregation, with the mentor and others, looks back at their journey and makes plans for continuing the momentum, energy, and transformation into the future
- *Cost*—\$75 per congregational team for each of the 4 Links includes all materials. Congregations may incur additional costs for accommodations and mileage, as appropriate

What You'll Learn — What You'll Experience:

- *Connecting*—Connect with Jesus, one another, and the world
- *Growing spiritually*—Deepen your faith, strengthen your commitment, and rediscover your purpose
- *Telling your story*—Discover how God's story and your story converge to reshape community
- *Discovering gifts and assets*—Assess and utilize your God-given gifts, in loving service to Christ and neighbor
- *Leading through change*—Change is hard, but essential for the church to grow. Learn how to lead through healthy change
- *Action planning*—Learn basic principles of congregational renewal and develop a contextual faith action plan
- *Building Teams*—Develop as well-formed and effective equippers and encouragers who know where to find support as they implement your faith action plan

Desired Outcomes:

- At the very heart, the E-Connect process is centered in the belief that God has provided everything that a congregation needs to carry out the ministry God intends for it
- Through the work of the Spirit, congregational members will become energized about the Good News of Jesus Christ and passionate about sharing and living the Gospel
- Teams learn the basic principles of congregational health and renewal and engage in a missional plan for moving forward toward God's promised future

Ecumenical-Connect

An Ecumenical Ministry in Indiana and Kentucky

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery

Presbytery of Ohio Valley

Presbytery of Transylvania

Updated 09.01.2021

Presbytery of Wabash Valley

Whitewater Valley Presbytery

The Episcopal Church

Diocese of Kentucky

Diocese of Lexington

Diocese of Northern Indiana

The United Church of Christ

Indiana-Kentucky Conference

For more information and/or for scholarship information, email Carol Webb at e-connect@iksynod.org.