



Anchor Church Training

Revitalizing the Church

What is Anchor Church?

Anchor Church is a grassroots movement within the ELCA where leaders accompany leaders toward cultural transformation within congregations. This is NOT a new program to get more people into church or to draw more youth to events. Anchor Churches are congregations that understand they are called to create a diverse culture of Christ, the Jesus way of life, into which people are immersed, transformed as children of God, and empowered to draw others into the Christ-culture at home, work, school, neighborhood, and beyond.

We invite you to consider participating in an 18-month process to garner tools for becoming an Anchor Church. This process utilizes the wisdom from trinitarian theology, organizational intelligence, adaptive leadership, diffusion of innovations, multi-culturalism, Clifton Strengths Finders, and the collective wisdom of the cohort to imagine a new way of doing church that multiplies congregational health and vitality. It is true “synod” as we “journey together” to become the leaders that Christ needs within this rapidly changing world.

To be clear:

Anchor Church is NOT a program driven out of the ELCA offices in Chicago. It is a grassroots movement of congregational practitioners who seek to assess and understand context, clarify vision, train leaders, and engage in strategic cultural development to enhance Christ’s mission in the world.

After experiencing cultural transformation, some Anchor Churches will:

- Multiply themselves by launching new sites.
- Accompany other congregations toward cultural transformation.
- Adopt or merge with other congregations to share staff, resources, and missional activity through multiple campuses.
- Create dynamic online worshiping communities
- Launch small worshiping communities that meet in pubs, café’s, homes, or out in nature.
- Merge congregations of different ethnicities into a single dynamic, multi-cultural congregation.
- Do things we have not yet imagined!

Ready to do church in a new way?

This 18-month process has several components:



Four three-day in-person gatherings six months apart with the first one on September 29-October 1 at Trinity Seminary.



Zoom conversations midway between in-person gatherings for additional instruction and cohort connections.



Access to individual coaching to help discern how Anchor Church applies to your particular context.

The Anchor Church Team

Pastor Doug Hill

Lead Pastor
Abiding Hope
Littleton, CO
pastordoug@abidinghope.org

Pastor Scott Suskovic

Lead Pastor
Christ Lutheran
Charlotte, NC
suskovic@christelca.org

Pastor Mary Suomala-Folkherd

Lead pastor
Lutheran Church of the Good
Shepherd, Moorhead, MN
pastormary@ktgs.org

Pastor Charles Newman

Lead Pastor
Crossroads Lutheran Church
San Tan Valley, AZ
cnewman@iamcrossroads.org

Cost and Registration

Email your intent to:
suskovic@christelca.org

Payment: \$1500 payable to Abiding Hope Lutheran Church
(Please Note: Anchor Church)
6337 S Robb Way, Littleton, CO 80127