

# IMPROVE CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL WELLNESS

It is common for congregations to wrestle with financial issues (e.g. budgets, resource allocation, sustained growth, etc.). **As a leader in an ELCA congregation, you have access to resources to help your congregation pursue healthy financial behaviors. Visit [resourcefulexplorers.org/congregations](https://resourcefulexplorers.org/congregations).**

## WHY PEOPLE GIVE

According to research cited by author J. Clif Christopher in *Rich Church, Poor Church: Keys to Effective Financial Ministry*, people give for three main reasons: belief in the institution's mission, regard for staff leadership, and the fiscal responsibility of the institution. A congregation's ability to make a difference, including through financial best practices, is critical to donors' continued financial support.

Through the Resourceful Servants initiative, the ELCA seeks to encourage habits that strengthen and sustain individual and congregational financial wellness and growth. So take advantage of the full range of financial wellness resources available at [resourcefulexplorers.org](https://resourcefulexplorers.org).

**Help your congregation engender trust in leadership, inspire generosity, direct gifts to where they can make the most difference, and participate in vital ministry inside and outside your walls.**

Through the Resourceful Servants Congregational Financial Assessment program, congregations have the opportunity to follow a road map to increased financial stability, using healthy financial practices that focus on five key areas:

Accounting



Finance



Human Resources



Risk Management



Stewardship



**In summary, what is the value of the Congregational Financial Assessment in healthy financial practices?**

- Increased giving from donors and supporters who want their gifts stewarded to maximize impact.
- Deepened focus on faith formation, with healthy financial practices in place.
- Facilitated knowledge transfer when new leaders come into office, through clear, consistent expectations around financial management.
- Enhanced appeal in call processes. Participating in the assessment indicates financial health is valued.
- Improved congregational processes, leading to better interest rates from lending institutions.
- Synodical recognition of this commitment to your congregation's financial health.



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