



Questions and Answers

- What's the timeline? The eight to twelve congregations selected for the fall cohort will begin meeting in September 2021. The last cohort session will be February 2023. The assigned coach will walk with the congregation for an additional six months. A show and tell and celebration will be held in September 2023.
- How often will the cohort meet? The cohort will meet online monthly for the eighteen months with a break for the holidays in December and April. The coach will walk with the congregation for an additional six months gathering as needed in person or online. In person gatherings will be scattered throughout the twenty-four months.
- What does it cost? Thanks to the generous support of Immanuel Vision Foundation and the Nebraska Synod we can offer this unique learning opportunity for congregations for \$950. The program fee includes eighteen months of online presentations with some of Nebraska Synod's finest teachers, a trained and certified coach walking with each congregation plus an additional six months of coach support provided as the congregation launches their own unique experiment, vitality assessment tools, prayer and spiritual practice resources, cohort sharing opportunities and storytelling tools.
- Are there additional costs? Congregations will be responsible for costs related to any in-person gatherings on the congregational level and travel for in-person cohort gatherings. The congregation may choose to purchase additional resources from the list provided by Vitality Initiative leaders.
- What if cost is a barrier? If the potential cost of this initiative is the only barrier for your congregation's participation in this, please reach out to Deacon Timothy Siburg at timothy@nebraskasynod.org.
- Are there restrictions on who can participate? A thriving congregation may be a two-point parish or single site, rural or big city, 150-years old or just 10 years old. We are looking for congregations willing to connect the dots in new ways, dream dreams and dare to live into their vocational call.
- What are the anticipated obstacles? An implicit obstacle in every endeavor like this is the innate resistance to change. This significant challenge is currently compounded by the growing fatigue resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. As congregations discern the Spirit's leading and their own gifts, barriers to change will soften and other challenges met with a risk-taking experimentation.
- What happens after we are accepted? By signing the Vitality Initiative Covenant the congregation is committing to the expectations of the 18-month process and the additional six months with the coach and celebration in September 2023. Expectations include: a willingness and readiness to change; active engaged participation for the entirety of the initiative including attendance at all cohort monthly gatherings and regular coaching sessions and the payment of the participation fee.