



Application for Vitality Initiative- Winter/Spring 2025

Application Deadline- November 8, 2024

Winter/Spring 2025 Cohort congregations to be named by December 6, 2024

The Nebraska Synod's Vitality Initiative for Congregations is rooted in the conviction that any congregation earnestly seeking to discern, explore, and innovate has the potential to increase its vitality. Congregations participating in the initiative will engage in learning on:

- congregational vocation
- discernment
- theological and biblical grounding
- spiritual practices
- institutional memory and storytelling
- culture change
- local asset mapping
- listening and imagining together that will culminate with a significant congregational experiment flowing directly out of the discernment process.

Prior to reading and completing the application, review the Overview of the Vitality Initiative, and the included timeline overview on the Vitality Initiative website to note all cohort session dates. If your congregation cannot participate in most of the dates outlined, this may not be the right time to apply.

Capacity for Change & Risk-Taking

Working together as a team, please answer the following ten questions using as much space as needed to accurately reflect your congregation. Lengthy responses are not necessary, but honest responses are expected.

1. The last 3-5 years have been filled with unexpected challenges for congregations. How they have gone for your congregation? Where are you now? What are your wonderings about where you might be going next?
2. Where have you seen God active and up to something within the life and ministry of the congregation?
3. What are the big questions you have about your congregation right now?
4. What are the big questions your congregation has about itself?
5. What are your congregation's top strengths?
6. What might be the largest challenges that the congregation faces currently?

7. What was the last significant change or experiment your congregation undertook?
 8. Where have you seen God active and up to something within the larger community beyond the congregation?
 9. Share an experience of your congregation taking a risk on behalf of the greater community you serve. What were the outcomes of the congregation's actions?
 10. What are the most significant challenges to innovation and experimentation in your congregation? What resources, gifts, or capacities does your congregation already have to address these challenges?
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Please submit all applications electronically in either a PDF or MS Word format to vitality@nebraskasynod.org by November 8, 2024.

In order to ensure a complete application, be sure that all applications include your honest answers and reflections to all of the Capacity for Change and Risk-Taking questions.

****If you have any questions about the application or the Vitality Initiative, please reach out to Deacon Timothy Siburg at timothy@nebraskasynod.org.**