

“Equipping for the Ministry of the Gospel”

Church Council Devotion/Reflection on Mission Support

Have someone read aloud this passage from Ephesians 4:11-16.

“¹¹ He himself granted that some are apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”

Invite people to respond to the following questions:

- 1. What does “equipping for the work of ministry” mean to you? Who is equipped? How? What might be your role as an individual, a Council, a congregation and as Synod in that equipping?**
- 2. How does your congregation, the Synod and the whole church live out “building itself up in love”?**
- 3. Share a "story" of someone's generosity that inspired you to be more generous. How did it make a difference in your life to be more generous?**
- 4. How might your congregation’s mission support of the ELCA and the Montana Synod be seen as a way in which people are equipped for the ministry of the Gospel?**

Let us pray:

Generous and gracious God, we give you thanks for the partnerships we have with our Synod, with the ELCA, and with the whole Christian Church on earth. Bless us with the power of your Holy Spirit, that we might together, with one voice proclaim the good news of your eternal love, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.