

Article on Coaching for the Upstate Update

“The gifts [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teacher to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...” Ephesians 4:11-12

One of the exciting things that is happening in the ELCA is the expansion of coaching ministry. Thinking of coaching the images that come to mind might be of throwing chairs onto basketball courts or getting into the faces of refs, but that is **not** the kind of coaching that we are talking about.

Let me explain. Though not listed in the passage from Ephesians coaching is all about equipping the saints (each of us) for the work of ministry and building up the body of Christ (all of us together.)

Coaching is a powerful tool that uses open-ended questions and deep listening to help a person or a group figure out what God wants for them and how to do it. In other words, coaching helps you clarify your goals and figure out how to accomplish them. I liken it to assisting you to find the key that unlocks the door that keeps you from accomplishing what you want or keeps you from growing in the way that you hoped. Coaching is future looking and goal oriented.



While coaching can be useful with almost any personal or congregational goal, I work primarily in the area of stewardship.

To give you an idea on the kinds of areas in which coaching might be beneficial with stewardship here are a few potential scenarios:

Personal Stewardship

- Money goes out faster than in comes in
- I think I would like to establish a family budget
- I would like to get out of debt
- I know I should do a will but it seems overwhelming
- I would like to prioritize my financial goals
- How can I get ready for retirement
- How can I live on fixed income
- I would like to better balance how I use time
- How do I prioritize career goals and decide on potential paths

Congregational Stewardship

- We need to have more than one person work on stewardship
- Our annual pledge drive is stale and is not producing desired results
- How can our leaders think beyond paying the bills
- How can we move to a holistic view of stewardship as opposed to just the annual pledge drive
- How can we get our people excited about our ministries
- The same few people do most of the work at church, help!
- How can our budget better reflect our passions and aspirations
- How can we encourage planned (legacy) giving

If you would like to know more please contact DEM, Norma Malfatti or myself.

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