

# Cultivating Generous Congregations

A seminar to awaken a spirit of generosity within churches



“Participating in the program gave our church leadership the confidence to ask questions and the resources for creating answers. CGC offers a proactive approach.”

## SCOTT PETERSON

Trinity Mennonite Church  
Glendale, Arizona

You may see the challenges of the economic climate, be concerned about the financial stability of your church, and desire to foster generosity among your attenders.

Consider Lake Institute on Faith & Giving’s interactive, practical seminar, *Cultivating Generous Congregations (CGC)*, which specifically helps pastors and their leadership teams:

- Rethink their role in church finances.
- Build a stronger vision and enhance transparency and trust.
- Awaken an ongoing spirit of generosity within their communities.

**Solid research base.** Everence® and Lake Institute have partnered closely together since 2012 to offer this seminar to churches at an affordable cost.

Lake Institute developed Cultivating Generous Congregations based on extensive, annually updated research. Part of the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Lake Institute is committed to having a practical impact with this seminar, which has touched churches throughout the nation.



## What you will learn

Most contemporary resources that deal with church finances focus on fundraising techniques. *Cultivating Generous Congregations* demonstrates how to “bake the cake” of church generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a church.

It combines research and practical experience. Through presentation, small-group and individual exercises, participants design their own plans for creating cultures of generosity. The seminar offers a high degree of interaction.

Seminar participants will:

- Understand the landscape of religious giving, based on the latest research.
- Appreciate the theological significance of generosity.
- Understand the relationship between organizational accountability and generosity.
- Understand and process the idea that church finances are an arena for pastoral care.
- Analyze their current church culture.
- Design a working plan to implement cultural change to move toward greater generosity.

## Are you ready?

### STEP 1 – CHECK-IN CHECKLIST

Before you take this course, you should:

- Believe in your church’s capacity for greater generosity.
- Have a desire to become more comfortable with money.
- Be willing to redefine giving in your church.
- Understand giving to include service, social networks and the sharing of ideas and professional expertise.

### STEP 2 – BUILD YOUR TEAM

Leadership of your church must have buy-in. Gather at least three, and we suggest one being a younger adult:

- Senior clergy (required).
- Treasurer.
- Board member.
- Entrepreneurial lay leader.

### STEP 3 – JOIN US FOR THE SEMINAR, *CULTIVATING GENEROUS CONGREGATIONS*

We invite you to join Lake Institute and Everence for an interactive training experience that offers fresh ways to engage the call to generosity, from spiritual and practical perspectives.

## GETTING STARTED

You may contact:

- Your Everence Stewardship Consultant. (Find your representative at [everence.com](http://everence.com) or call 800-348-7468.)
- Beryl Jantzi, Everence Director of Stewardship Education, 800-442-7930, [beryl.jantzi@everence.com](mailto:beryl.jantzi@everence.com).

## The partners

Lake Institute explores connections between philanthropy and faith within major religious traditions. Its mission is to foster greater understanding of the ways in which faith inspires and informs giving – bridging academic research and practical tools to benefit churches. It is a leader in faith-based training and teaching. Learn more at [philanthropy.iupui.edu/lake-institute](http://philanthropy.iupui.edu/lake-institute).

Everence helps individuals, organizations and churches integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance, charitable and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. To learn more, visit [everence.com](http://everence.com) or call 800-348-7468.