

Columbia Theological Seminary. Center for Lifelong Learning. Lilly Thriving Congregations. 2024 reKindle Grant Recipients.

[Elon First Baptist Church. Elon, North Carolina.](#) “Revive and Revitalize: EFBC Staffing and Infrastructure Renovation Project” –

Elon First Baptist’s project will restructure their staff and infrastructure, with the aim to position the congregation for continued growth and impact across their four pillars of faith, family, fellowship, and freedom. Restructuring will contribute to the congregation's thriving across these core areas. With a rich history of 102 years, they are deeply rooted in the community and committed to serving a diverse congregation of multiple generations.

[High Places Community Church. Oak Ridge, Tennessee.](#) “The Post and Beam Leadership Development Project”

After the past decade of serving the wider community through increasingly impactful partnerships, in strategies that were often pastor-dependent, The Post and Beam Leadership Development Project will take the opportunity of this grant to strengthen and develop the leadership of the staff team, equipping them, in turn, to strengthen the congregation, in its ongoing mission to serve God through loving the community of Oak Ridge, TN. This commitment is made with the awareness that our growth in missional ministry is only sustainable through broadening responsibility and shared leadership.

[St. Luke Lutheran Church. Atlanta, GA.](#) “Fanning the Flame: Reclaiming Our Unique Identity for the Sake of the Gospel.”

This project aims to revitalize St. Luke Lutheran Church by reaffirming its unique identity and core values. Through deep reflection and engagement with the congregation and community, we anticipate that "Fanning the Flame" will reinvigorate our sense of purpose and mission. By defining our core values and vision, we will align our activities with our identity, leading to a more cohesive and impactful ministry. Ultimately, we believe this project will foster a renewed sense of commitment and passion among our members, leading to a thriving and vibrant church community

[Forest Hills United Methodist Church. Brentwood, Tennessee.](#) “SENT: Lay Call Experimental Initiative”

Forest Hills United Methodist Church’s “SENT: Lay Call & Experimental Initiative” is focused on walking alongside individuals in our congregation as they intentionally discern where God

may be sending them to See our neighbors, Engage them through listening and loving, Notice where God is at work, and enter into God's Transformation in community and partnership beyond the walls of our church. This cohort will engage lay people in a discernment process so that participants understand their spiritual gifts, learn healthy relational approaches to engaging others, and emerge as people sent into the world to participate and bear witness to the ways God is already at work in the community.

[Friendship Baptist Church. Memphis, Tennessee. "Sacred Spaces Project"](#)

The Sacred Spaces Project is designed to engage this present generation, an upcoming generation, and future generation to lead, and share in ministry. A goal is to learn how to become more innovative in outreach, and raise up a new generation of leaders with a community focus ministry concept. The Sacred Space Project will help encourage and enhance a connection to the sacred, and spaces where we connect with the divine. It seeks to develop a hunger and a thirst for God's presence, and ministry. The Sacred Spaces Project is designed to equip a new (next) generation of church leaders to engage and lead in ministry."

[Flossmoor Community Church. Flossmoor, Illinois. "A Thriving Congregation: Pastoral Companion Program"](#)

The Pastoral Companion Program at Flossmoor Community Church is designed to invigorate our congregation's engagement with both our church community and the surrounding area. A goal is to enhance the congregation's overall vitality and relevance in the community. The project will integrate the principles of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), which focuses on pastoral formation, competency, and reflection, this program equips congregants with the skills necessary to provide empathetic, effective support to those facing various life challenges.

[Central Baptist Church. Richmond, Virginia. "Revisioning Process for a Transforming Community"](#)

A congregational conflict led Central Baptist to a process of transformation which created a new vision for the congregation - "seek to become a faith community that embraces God's radical love for all creation, demonstrates the life of Jesus, and depends upon the Spirit to fuel change in us and the world." The goal is to focus the work to bring about positive change in the world, not through religious conversion, but by demonstrating the teachings and principles of Jesus, to demonstrate the way they understand God's love for the world. Such a shift in the purpose and understanding of church can be difficult for members that have been in the same model of church for so long. Extra education is needed for the congregation to come alongside the vision team in living into this new vision.

[Community Presbyterian Church. Broadview, Illinois.](#) “Three-Church Collaboration: Bilingual Community Well-Being Health Fair Kick- Off/Una Colaboración de tres Iglesias: Un Proyecto Comunitario Bilingüe de Bienestar”

The Bilingual Well-Being project is a dynamic collaboration among three small diverse congregations—a multicultural Presbyterian church, a Black Pentecostal church, and a Non-denominational Hispanic church—that share the same worship space. This project aims to cultivate and deepen connections by showcasing tangible expressions of God’s love and our commitment to one another, thereby helping to manifest God's Kingdom on Earth. The Bilingual Well-Being Health Fair kick-off event is designed to address the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of our members and community through health education, preventative medicine information, various health screenings and assessments as well as movement and social connections.

[Columbia Presbyterian Church. Decatur, Georgia.](#) “Revisioning of Columbia Presbyterian Church Property and Buildings as a Response to Homelessness”

The Revisioning Columbia Presbyterian project will enable the congregation to move away from the existing lease rental structure of its education building with a private school to re-visioning how the campus and its buildings can become both a sustainable worshiping community and a congregation with a focus directed toward alleviating the problems of homelessness in the community.

[First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin. Dunedin, Florida.](#) “Finding Beloved Community at FPC Dunedin”

Since its inception in 1871, FPCD has experienced two thriving organizational life cycles of approximately 75+ years each. The congregation’s second life cycle (1946 – to present) is soon coming to an end. The goals of this “listening project” are to reveal recurring themes in the data to support informed decision making regarding the future strategic direction for the third organizational life cycle of First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin.