

Educate, Equip, Enact (3E)

Where Are You Going?



“If you don’t move forward and change, you’re not going anywhere.”

That’s what Charlene Coulson, a decades-long member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (SOTH) in Cañon City, Colorado, who currently serves as the Congregation Council President, recently shared as she reflected on SOTH’s journey in stewardship ministry.

Three years ago, SOTH participated in 3E’s *Stewardship for All Seasons* (SAS) program. SAS guides congregations and its leaders in learning and carrying out fruitful stewardship programs that enliven a culture of generosity. But, SAS wasn’t the right fit for SOTH at the time and the congregation left SAS.

When Charlene began serving as council president, honoring SOTH’s legacy *and* seeing ministry opportunity in the present, she said, “We’ve got to be doing better than this.”

SOTH decided to join 3E’s fall 2020 online *Beginning a Culture of Generosity* program, created for congregations who have not yet participated in SAS.

At SOTH, *Beginning a Culture of Generosity* hit the sweet spot. The number of people pledging more than doubled over the prior year and projected income grew by 27%. Charlene said people were truly *excited* as they decided to fund new local, national, and international ministry initiatives in their *Web of Grace* fall stewardship campaign.

While 3E hopes to offer effective programs, it’s bold, trusting, daring leadership and vision like Charlene’s and that of others at SOTH that helped the congregation move forward in sharing God’s love in the world.

Responding to what God is prodding them to become in this new day, SOTH trusts where it’s going.

Questions for Reflection

- How do you feel about the opening quote?
- What excites you about the ministry of your congregation?
- What can you learn from what *doesn’t* go right?
- Who is God prodding you to become?