

God is calling your congregation to new life. How are you going to respond?

About the Collaborative.

The Collaborative is an initiative by the Southern Ohio Synod to revitalize congregations. Our mission is to equip leaders and their communities of faith to build relationships, deepen faith, grow community, and identify and respond to God's call for their congregation.

The Collaborative is an 18-month-long journey of discovery, assessment, and action, facilitated by four training sessions which will be offered every six months.

Stronger and Better together.

In this effort you are not alone. Joined by congregations from across the Synod we will journey together to discover what God has in store for your community and how your church can play a part.

**Change is hard.
But together we face that challenge.**

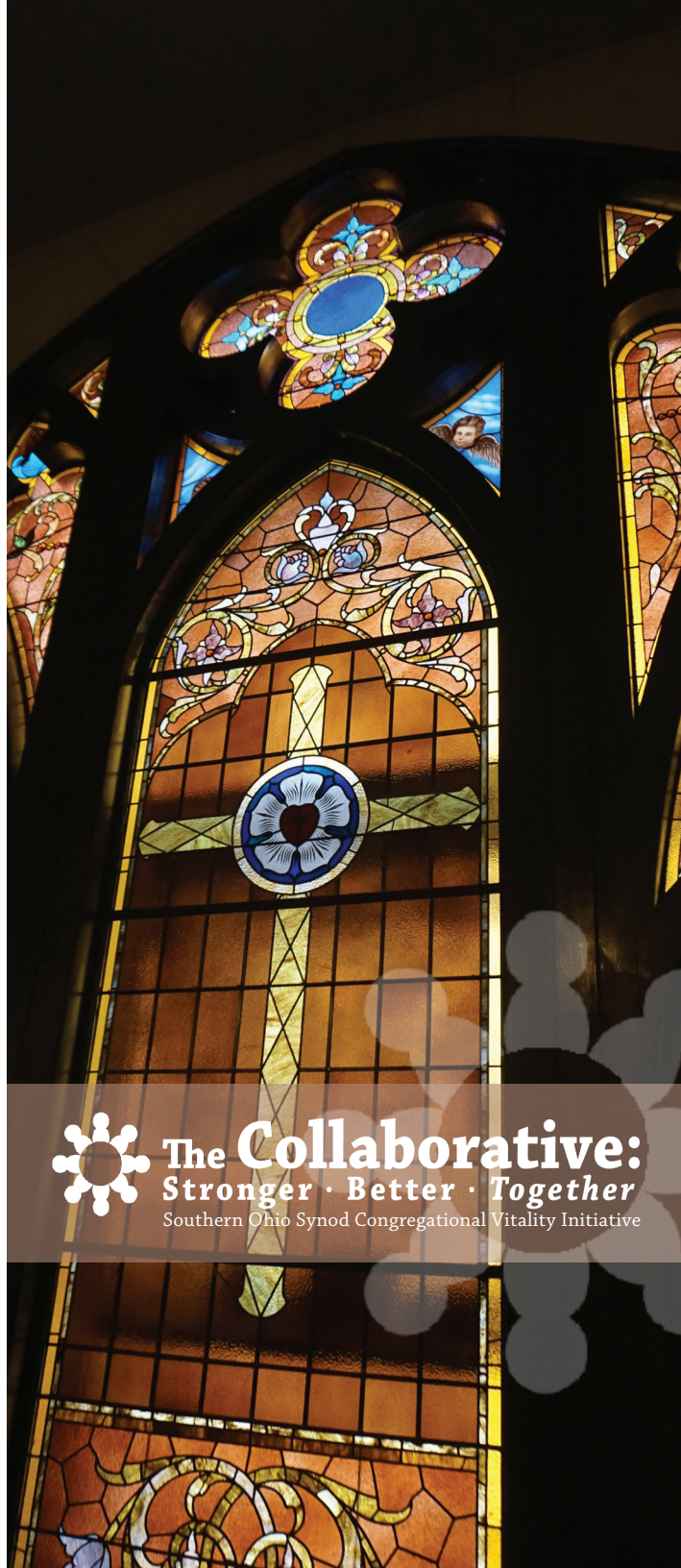
Are you ready to join The Collaborative?

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They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. 1 Timothy 6:18-19 NRSV



 **The Collaborative:**
Stronger · Better · Together
Southern Ohio Synod Congregational Vitality Initiative

What happens at each training session?

Small cohorts of six to eight congregations will attend these sessions together, learning together and from one another.

Collaborative Teams (4-6 lay people plus their pastor) will receive training in a variety of development topics and develop an action plan of development activities to work on. These activities ensure on-going engagement in the congregation's revitalization.

The trainings will take place in the fall and the spring, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Friday and ending at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Collaborative trainings are led by members of the Synod's Congregational Vitality Team, each of whom have received training in congregational development.



What is the investment?

Thanks to a grant from the ELCA Campaign for Synodical Renewal Processes, and ongoing mission support from the congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod, we can offer this program at a very low cost:

\$100 per congregational team for each of the four trainings, plus the cost of travel to the trainings and overnight lodging (if needed).

Lunches during the training are included.



What happens when we get home?

Collaborative Teams will come home with an action plan: a variety of development activities chosen for their specific context, which they will introduce and lead in the congregation.

Collaborative Teams will be supported by a Congregational Mentor, who will meet with them and check in with them periodically.

Pastors will be supported by a special coaching cohort facilitated by coaches experienced with congregational redevelopment.

