

Cultivating Generous Congregations

How do you inspire generosity within your Meeting or Church?

Everence® and Lake Institute on Faith & Giving invite a cohort from your fellowship to participate in a workshop experience that could change the way you and your congregation approach giving and generosity.

Join Everence for our first, fully-virtual version of the CGC as we partner with Friends United Meeting to refocus conversations and practice around giving and financial stewardship.

Cultivating Generous Congregations is an interactive seminar, demonstrating how meeting/church leaders can unearth and energize congregational generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a congregation. Over the course of the workshop, you and your congregational team will develop an implementation plan that brings together best practices in the context of your specific community

This course is intended for those who:

- Believe in their congregation's capacity for greater faithfulness, ministry and generosity;
- Have a desire to explore the spiritual and biblical relationship between money and faith;
- Are willing to reconsider and redefine the practice of stewardship in their fellowship; and
- Are committed to working with others from their community to inspire and lead change.

Presenter



Facilitator: Colin Saxton serves as an Everence® Stewardship Consultant with a passion for seeing thriving communities of faith. He is an instructor for the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving and acts as a liaison to the Friends world. Colin and his wife Janine live in Newberg, Oregon. Prior to his work with Everence, Colin was a Quaker pastor, superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends and General Secretary of Friends United Meeting.

Registration:

The registration fee for the seminar is \$50 per congregational team (up to 5 individuals). Registration includes a participant workbook and other resources. This course is underwritten by Everence and the Lilly Foundation.

If you have questions, seek more information or wish to register your Meeting/Church, contact Colin Saxton at colin.saxton@everence.com or 503-550-1599.



Format:

Congregational groups will meet via Zoom for six-sessions beginning Tuesday, September 15. From there, we will gather online every other Tuesday evening through November 24. Presentations will be live, with time for discussion/break-out conversations. **Each session will last 90 minutes and scheduled for 7:30pm - 9:00pm (Eastern)**. If possible, local teams are encouraged to meet together in a home or at the Meetinghouse to stimulate conversation and collaboration in developing your implementation plan.

Congregational Teams:

Committed and engaged leadership is essential to this process. We strongly encourage 3 - 5 local participants. Friends from the pastoral tradition are urged to include their pastor/lead pastor. Other participants may include Meeting Clerk, Finance/Stewardship members, Elder/Ministry/Oversight members, Treasurers, creative/entrepreneurial members and/or fundraisers. A mix of ages and genders is highly encouraged!

Next Steps:

1. Get your team assembled. Again, please reach out if you have questions or need additional information.
2. Register your Meeting/Church **by August 15** with Colin Saxton. You will receive your manual and a book, pre-gathering instructions, and a course outline with ramp-up/down assignments for each session.
3. Send in your congregation's \$50 participation fee prior to the September 15 launch date.

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A seminar to awaken a spirit of generosity within churches and meetings

**Schedule:**

- **Tuesday, 9/15:** Introduction/overview, get acquainted and **Generosity in Context:** *What can be learned from the broader cultural context of charitable giving which can inform the church/meeting on addressing the trends of diminished giving to congregations and religious institutions.*
- **Tuesday, 9/29: Theology of Money:** *This session will challenge us to look at how we discuss our theology of money with our people and instill an understanding of giving as a spiritual practice and opportunity for discipleship/spiritual formation.*
- **Tuesday, October 31: Congregations:** *In our changing cultural context, congregations need to make a case for why giving to the mission and ministry of the local congregation matters and is making a difference. We will look at three basic questions that congregations need to address: Who are we? What are we about? and How well do we manage what we receive?*
- **Tuesday, October 27: Leadership:** *Healthy leadership is central to cultural congregational change and organizational transparency.*
- **Tuesday, November 10: Donors & Members:** *Generosity rarely occurs by accident; it is the product of a spiritual formation process by which individuals form an identity of generous living and giving. **Fundraising as Ministry:** We believe that fundraising is a spiritual practice. Fundraising should not be a response to a crisis, but rather a way of announcing our vision and inviting all church members into God's work mission.*
- **Tuesday, November 24: Implementation Project:** *All throughout the process teams will be working on a specific implementation plan suited for their congregation. In this our final meeting, we will finalize and share goals for the next three months, year and beyond.*

Suggested reading and directed discussion/homework will be encouraged between Zoom meetings.

For more information about Everence, please visit our website: www.everence.com