

Testimonials from the 2014 ELCA Community Organizing Training



This was both the most challenging and the most powerful leadership development opportunity I've experienced in recent memory.

Rozella White, ELCA Program Director for Young Adult Ministry

This was very helpful as an opportunity to learn how to make the world, and our church, a place that embraces the power of God's purpose.



Bishop Rick Hoyme, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin



I was shown things I have chosen not to see, like just how insidious the evil of oppressive systems is and how much better organized than our faith communities. But I left feeling joyful, hopeful and, most importantly, I left feeling empowered.

Rev. Libby Howe, DEM & Assistant to Bishop, La Crosse Area Synod

This training helped me to fully embrace the power I have and gave me courage to use that power to accomplish the exciting work God is calling us to do together.



Rev. Bill Tesch, Director for Evangelical Mission, South Dakota Synod



Community organizing is seriously impacting how I respond to life in a city historically and currently making choices that radically impair the lives of African-descent people living here.

Rev. Marilyn Robinson, Parish Pastor, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod

The community organizing training of the ELCA was a major turning point in my young career as a pastor. This kind of training is exactly what we need to see more of in the church of the 21st century.



Rev. Nathaniel Allen, Parish Pastor, Pacifica Synod



These tools offer communities and congregations the chance to create spaces of equity, justice, and change that benefit the entire family of God.

Sister Liz Colver, Community Organizing Specialist, NW WA Synod

The training was a life-changing event. It re-confirmed for me that we have the tools, coming directly from our faith tradition, to be God's instruments for creating meaningful social change.



Joshua Stromberg, Seminarian, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



The week is intense and requires one to reach within to understand one's leadership skills. This program provided a comprehensive opportunity to experience each component of organizing and reflect daily with my colleagues.

Amy Westphal, Seminarian, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago