

SYNOD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGACY CONSIDERATIONS  
March 18, 2023

As a congregation considers holy closure, it must also discern the legacy of the church assets and property. While some choose to convey them to the synod for disbursement, others decide their legacy before closure. Regardless, the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA proposes the following considerations for a congregation in the Northwest Washington Synod in the disbursement of church assets and property upon holy closure.

Whereas

- we are church together through all three expressions (Congregation, Synod, Churchwide);
- closing assets and properties of any ELCA church has and should remain a part of the work of ELCA;
- every new ministry and church have always begun with the support of past generations;
- throughout the history of congregational life, the stewardship of the faithful has been for the work of the Gospel through the church and, therefore, the legacy of all congregations should remain for this same sacred work;
- commitment should always be taken to preserve the original intent of the church founders;
- the mission of a closing church is to continue the gospel of Jesus Christ through new expressions;
- we are sent by the crucified and risen Jesus to make disciples, equip leaders, strengthen parishes, and nurture communities; and
  
- the Lutheran theological persuasion is still relevant and needed now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Northwest Washington Synod Council urges congregations considering holy closure to adopt the below asset disbursements consideration as their faithful legacy:

- As we are church together in three expressions of Congregation, Synod and Churchwide, congregations allocate:
  - 30 percent of legacy funds to Churchwide ministries of the congregation's selection.
  - 30 percent to synod ministries of the congregation's selection.
- As we look forward to new ministries being birthed, the congregation allocates 30 percent to new and emerging synod ministries.
- As we are part of an integral part of the local community, the congregation allocates 10 percent to external and/or community charities of their selection.