

GRACE IN ACTION

Discussion Guide: Polity 1

Understanding Property, Finances & Identity in the ELCA

What are some of the fears or concerns surrounding the partnership that you share with the wider church?

What are some ways that your congregation is working to grow this year and is the congregation aware of these initiatives?

Read Romans 15:14–32. How does congregational giving to the wider church follow the model of the early church?

What can you learn about the priorities of the churchwide expression of the ELCA based on the document – Where does your offering go?

Follow-up Actions

1. Check with the leadership of the congregation to determine who holds the deed for the church property.
2. Review of copy of your ministry budget to consider what narrative the giving and spending reveals.
3. Review the ELCA's *Where Does Your Offering Go?* video and PDF (links below).

Resources

ELCA Model Constitution - <https://resources.elca.org/office-of-the-secretary/model-constitution-for-congregations-2025/>

ELCA Where Does your offering go? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzTnNwtXHV4>

ELCA Where Does your offering go PDF - https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Where_Does_My_Offering_Go_Poster.pdf