

Cultivating Generous Congregations Testimonial
Rev. Trent Williams
Friends Congregational Church UCC

I attended Cultivating Generous Congregations in September 2018. Since that time, I've helped lead our congregation through two annual pledge campaigns, as well as the launch of an endowment program. I can honestly say that CCG was one of the best and most useful professional development opportunities of my career. It offered practical, spiritually rich, and adaptable guidance that I was able to immediately implement in my ministry setting.

At CCG, I learned how to tell a story that is compelling to donors and connects them to the mission and ministry of my congregation. Through intensive focus on my own relationship to money and an opportunity to explore the theology of stewardship at work in my life and my congregation, I gained insights into how to better lead the members of my community in reflecting on their own spiritual and financial commitments. I also gleaned practical insight into shaping themes and materials for annual and on-going stewardship efforts.

For my congregation, the results have been extraordinarily successful. Our pledges increased by a combined \$80,000 over two years, and we have been able to grow our budget by 25% over the same period. We are also in the beginning stages of launching an endowment fund to help us plan for financial sustainability over the long term. I cannot recommend Cultivating Generous Congregations highly enough, and I hope that you will consider participating.