




2023 Assembly

# Bishop's Report

*Walking Together Into Courageous Love*



WHERE  
ARE WE  
HEADED?

As with Moses and Miriam, Ruth and Naomi, Peter and Paul, we walk into an unfolding horizon, trusting in the presence of a living and liberating God to guide and ground our steps.

WHAT  
WILL OUR  
COMPASS  
BE?



MUTUAL ACCOMPANIMENT

AGENCY AND DIGNITY

INTEGRITY

WISDOM FROM THE EDGES

HONESTY AND HUMILITY



What gives me hope?

- Over 700 people in the Oregon Synod are involved in cohorts, classes and leadership development, rural, urban, suburban
- “Outside” giving to the Oregon Synod is up by more than 50% two years running
- More grants than ever from Lutheran World Hunger have come in to help us build bridges with all people in Oregon
- Racial justice work has been lifted up, including Reckoning with Racism cohorts, Inclusive Call Process changes and Land Back intentional invitations, helping us engage with many
- Numerous other synods and denominations are requesting to partner with us because of the creative faithfulness of what we are doing

- Disaster and Climate Resilience work continues and also supports other initiatives
- Oregon Synod Ecumenical Advisory Team formed to help us see and counter White Privilege
- More Deacons, BIPOC Pastors and LGBTQIA leaders are involved and excited to be in the Oregon Synod
- More Lutherans from rural Oregon are involved in the work of the Synod, together
- Many congregations are reporting high levels of vitality as families and individuals reconnect or connect for the first time after lock-down

# Spiritual Friendship



*I no longer call you servants...  
but I have called you friends.*

**John 15:15**



# Synod means “On the Road Together”



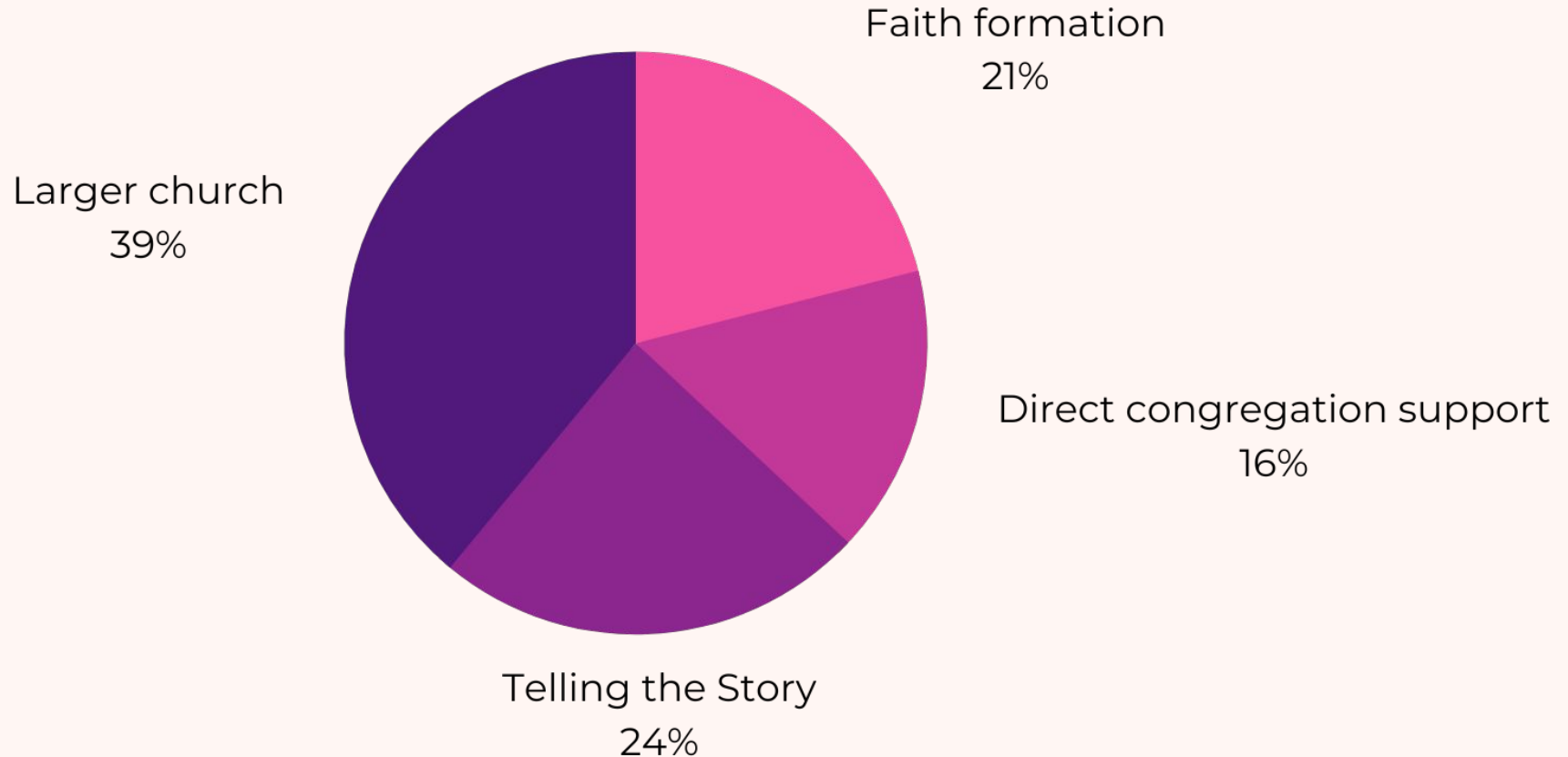


## Bishop's Office Staff



How do we spend your mission support?

# Where does the money go?



## Mission Support to the ELCA



We give 42% of all mission support (39% of the total budget) to the Churchwide Office for our collective ministries across the nation and world.

We also have received grants back from the Churchwide Offices totalling over \$300,000 this year.

# Agency & Social Ministry gifts & grants



U of O Campus  
Ministry Good Soil



OSU Campus Ministry Luther House

# Leadership Development and Faith Formation

Community Vitality through Sacred Organizing

Reckoning with Racism

Spiritual and Theo. MA

Campus Ministries

Rural Vitality Cohorts

Lay Education Classes



# Leadership and Faith Formation

Candidates for Ministry

Cabinet of Deans

Leaven Land &  
Housing Coalition

Synod Council

Quarterly Meetings

Endowment Committee





OREGON SYNOD  
SALM AND LAY EDUCATION COURSE

## Finding Liturgy in Life and Life in Liturgy

Beginning January 11, 2022

*How can we do our part to facilitate healthy,  
and constructive conflict, while mitigating  
unhealthy and destructive conflict?*

## ENGAGING CONFLICT FOR GROWTH

*In Ourselves, Relationships, and Communities*

OREGON SYNOD LAY EDUCATION COURSE

## Discernment: In Solitude and Community

OREGON SYNOD LAY EDUCATION COURSE

# Lay Education Classes

*How do we experience God?  
How are we called to respond to suffering?  
How do we discover wisdom and hold hope?  
What is our personal and collective purpose?*

## INVITATIONS INTO LIBERATION:

*The Reformation, Lutheran Theology, and Beyond*

OREGON SYNOD LAY EDUCATION COURSE

## Death and Dying: Preparing for Our Own, Caring for Others

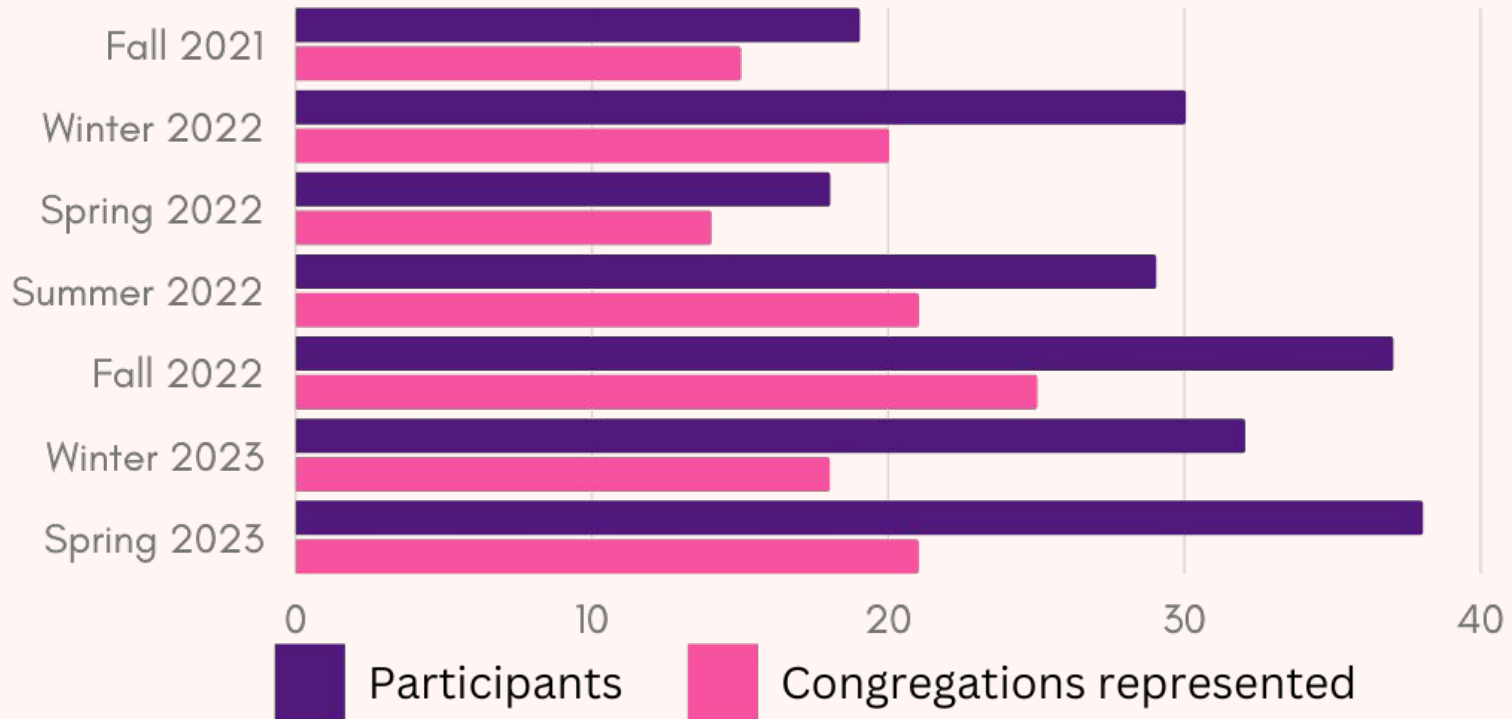
OREGON SYNOD LAY EDUCATION COURSE

## Parables as Invitation

AN OREGON SYNOD LAY EDUCATION COURSE

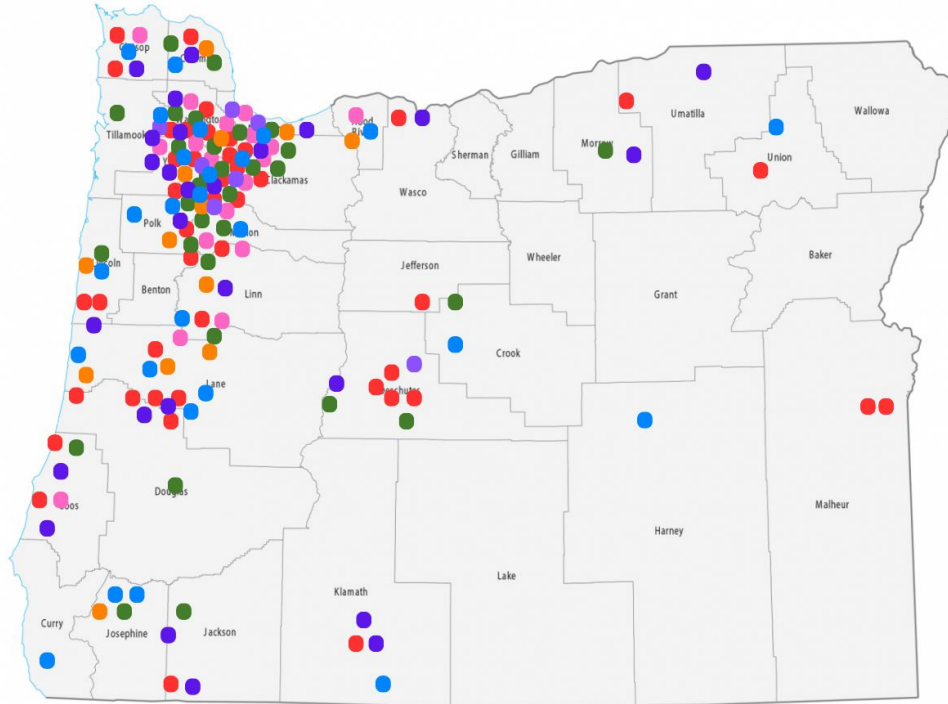
Eight Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8 pm, beginning March 29

# Lay Education Classes



# Synod Stewarded Ministries

Where do they touch down on the ground and who do they impact?



- Community Vitality and Innovation Cohorts**  
Reckoning with Racism, Sacred Organizing,  
Climate Resiliency (over the last three years)
- Transformational Transitions**  
Spanning 2022-23/current
- Candidacy, SALM, Lay Ed., STMA**
- Conflict & Crisis**
- Current Mission Development/  
New Ministries**
- Visits, Speaking, Events, & Celebrations**
- Leadership Accompaniment &  
Pastoral Care**

# Telling the Story

Your Creative Ministries for God's Future Church

Mid-Willamette Valley Latino  
Ministry

Storydwelling

Storyline

Queer Enough



# *Your Creative Ministries for God's Church of the Future*

Together Lab

Cully Neighborhood Engagement

Disaster and Climate Resilience

SE Portland Thriving

Communities



# Synod Communications



# Congregational Support

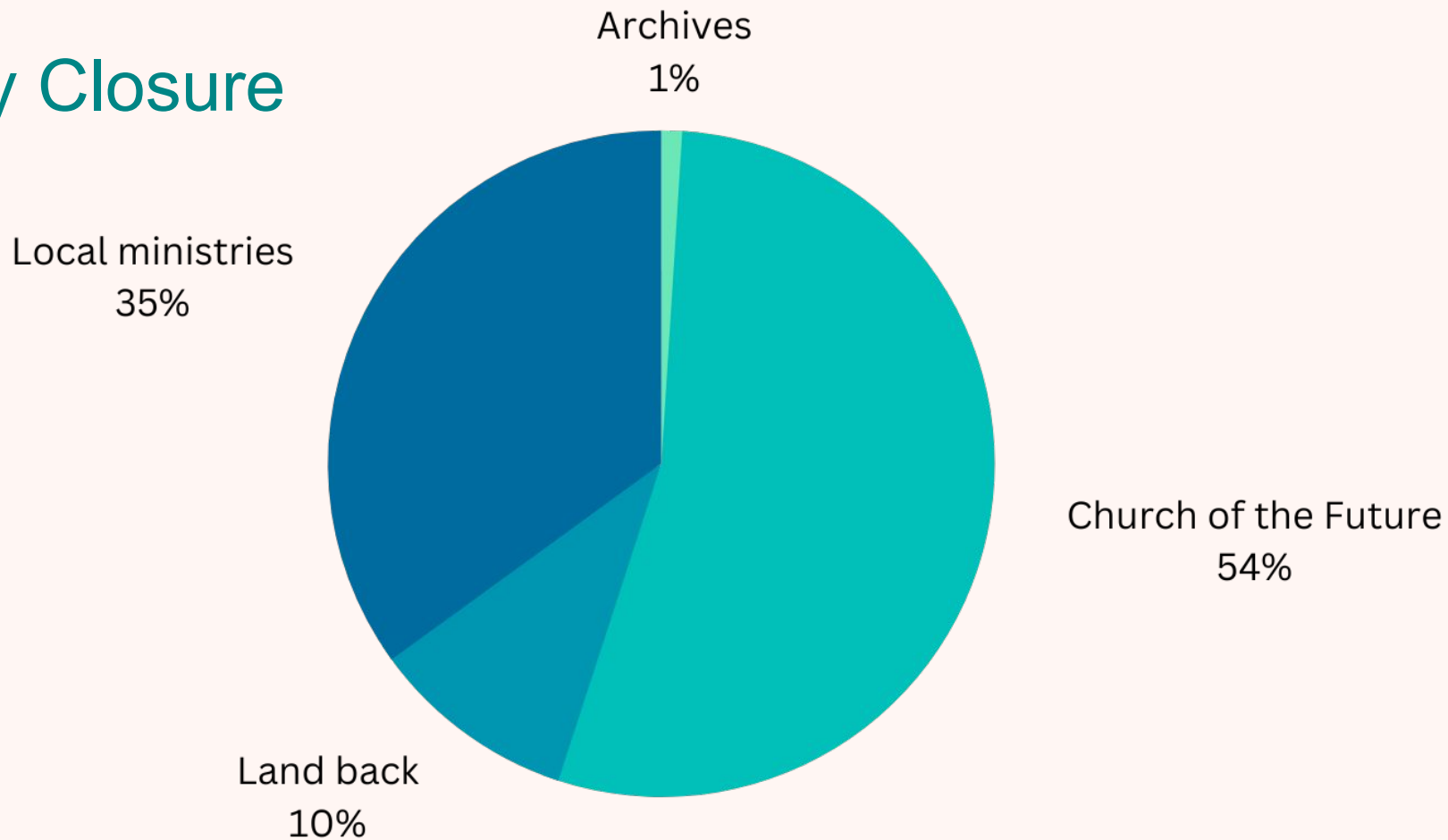


# Pastoral support for pastors





# Holy Closure

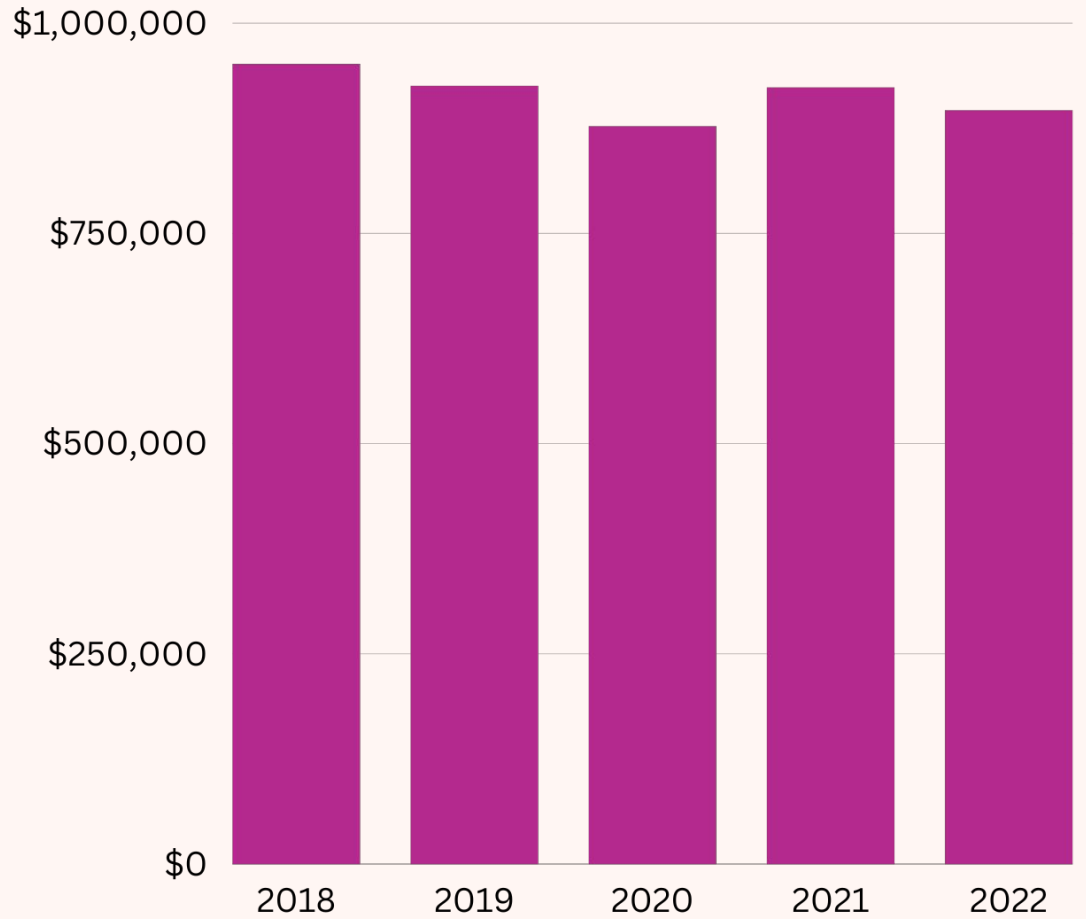


Jesus looked at them and said, “With humans this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

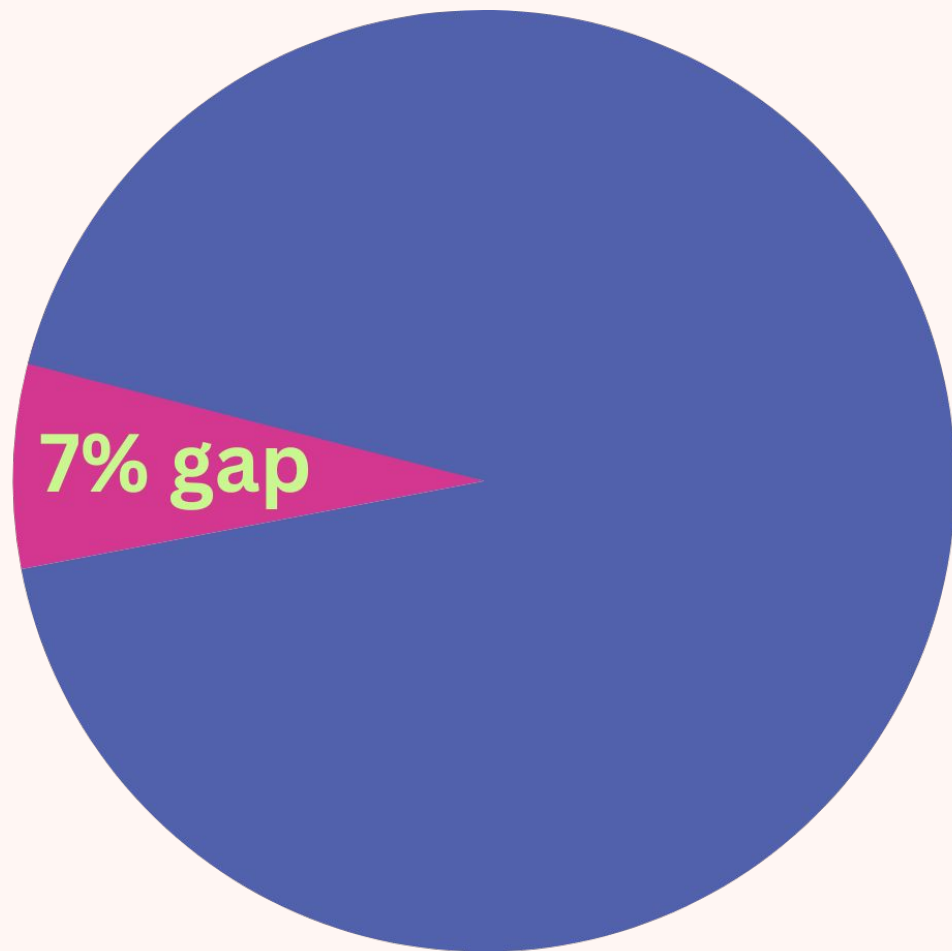
Matthew 19:26



# Total Mission Support Trend



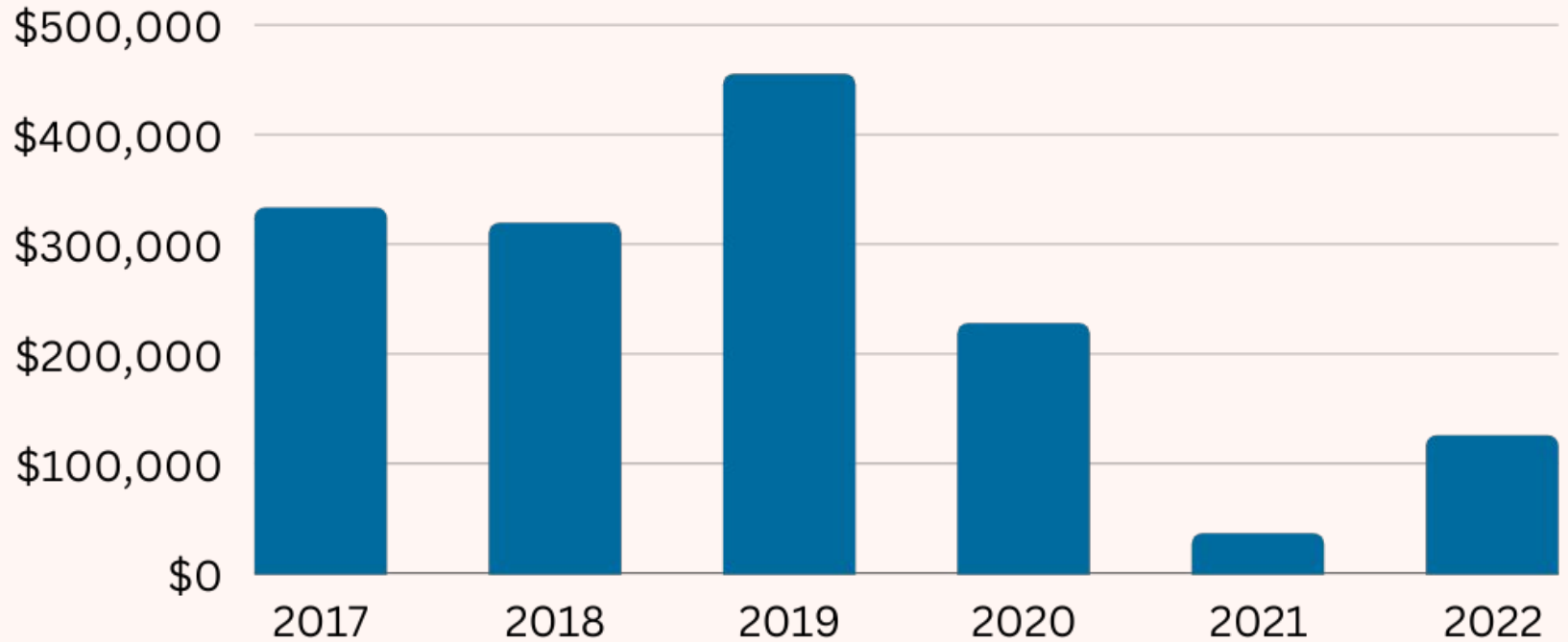
If trends continue...



# Thankfully...

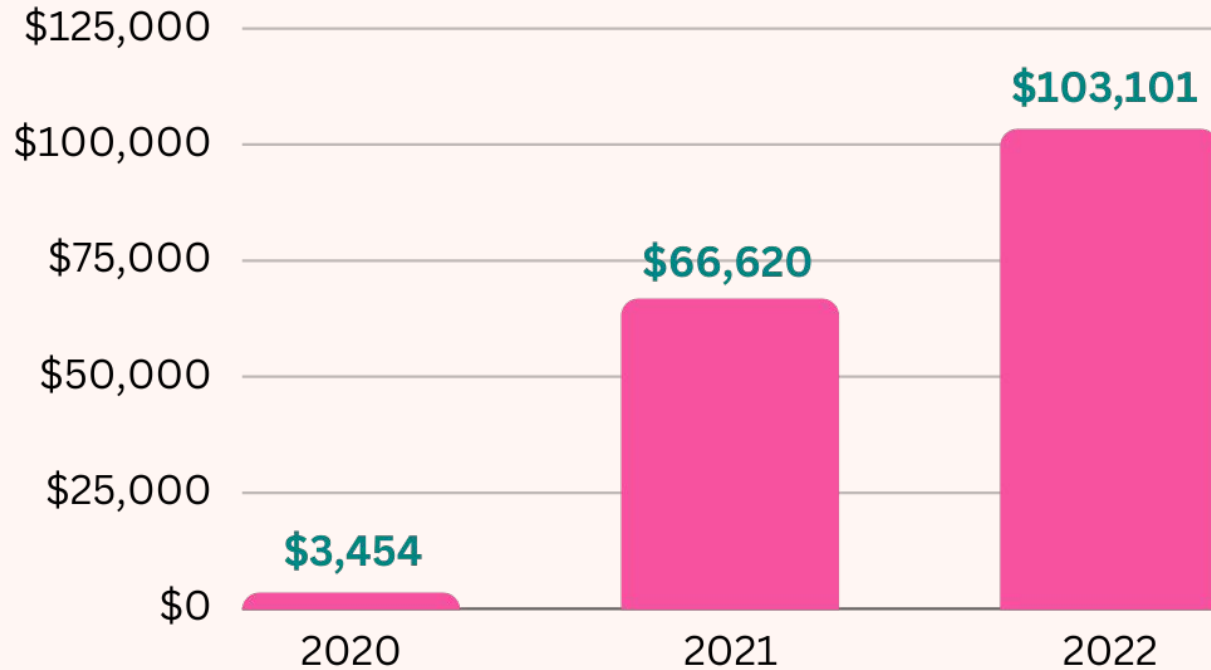


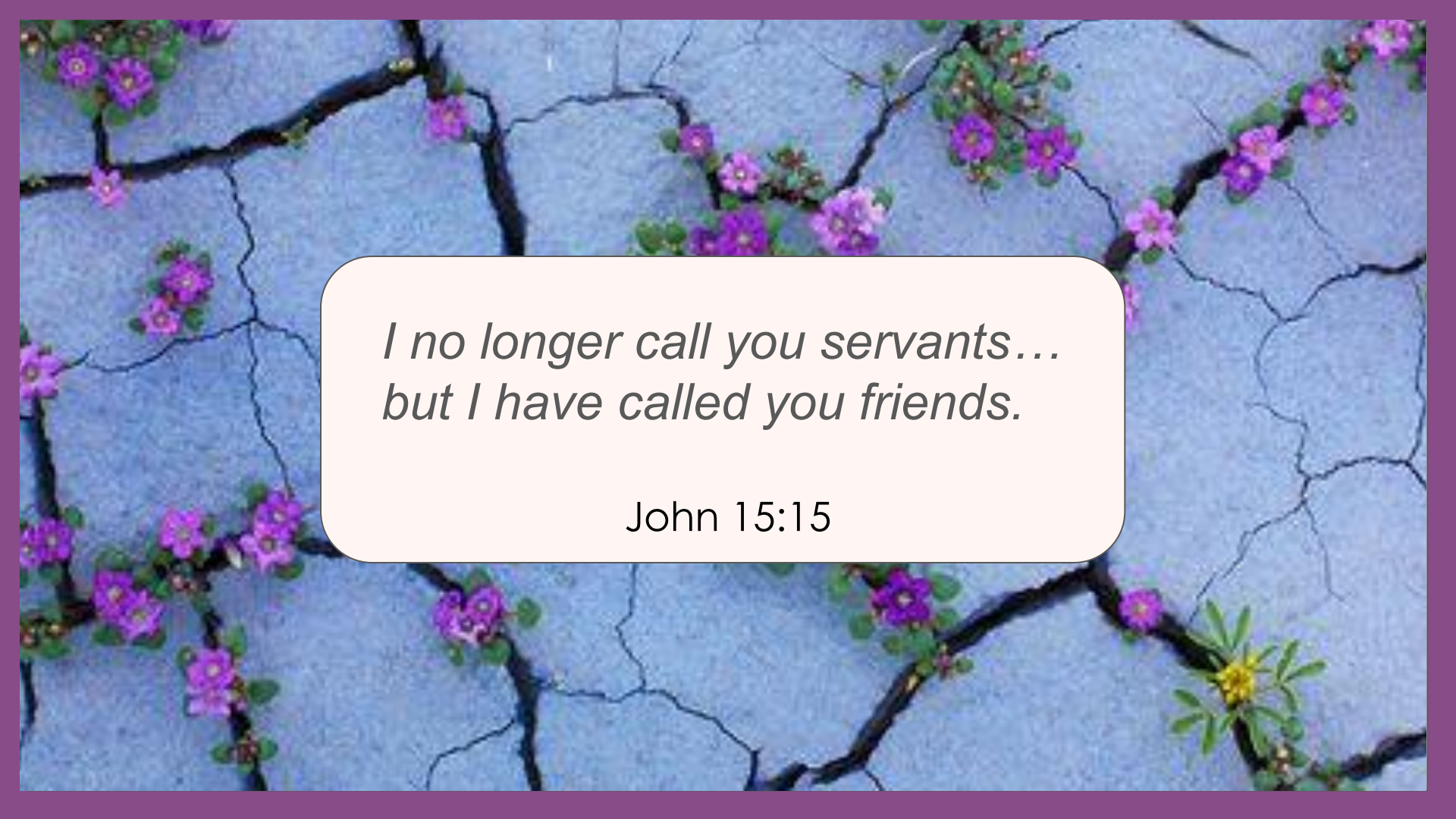
# Preserving our reserves



# Synod Fundraising from Other Sources

## Horizon & Courageous Love Fund





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but I have called you friends.*

John 15:15