



# SEVEN MISSION SUPPORT PRINCIPLES

Use the following suggestions to open conversation about how your congregation might identify unrestricted operating funds to sustain our important work with congregations and communities in the territory of New Jersey. We understand that resources within our congregations are not extravagant, but right now we have the opportunity to provide for the work of the New Jersey Synod when help is needed most. Take a look at these ideas for special Mission Support gifts:

1. **Sharing is Proportional.** Does your congregation share proportionately from your resources to support the mission tasks of the Synod and ELCA Churchwide Units? What percentage of your total unrestricted income did you share last year? What percentage did you share 5 years ago?
2. **10% is the base level of Mission Support Sharing in New Jersey.** Most congregations will make decisions about 2010 sharing with anxiety about the economy flavoring our conversation. Revisit your commitments with an eye toward growth.
3. **Mission Support Sharing is a First Fruits gift.** Congregations are encouraged to make decisions about mission sharing first, before other decisions are made and as a matter of priority. Remember we share out of solidarity, not what is left over. Send your gifts for Mission Support and designated benevolences on a monthly basis.
4. New Jersey Congregations **tithe unrestricted bequests.** If your congregation has received, or is receiving, an unrestricted bequest, give 10% of that gift as a special contribution for the New Jersey Synod. This level of giving is a continuing example of first fruits, proportionate sharing.
5. New Jersey Congregations **tithe unrestricted endowment income.** Congregations offer at least a tithe (10%) of all unrestricted income from endowment and memorial funds to the Synod and other wider ministries of the ELCA.
6. **Congregations are asked to generously share 100% or more of their mission support intents.** Share your mission support letter of intent on line at [www.njsynod.org](http://www.njsynod.org) and go to the stewardship page. Responding by mail, using the Mission Support Intent form is also encouraged.
7. **Join in intercessory prayer** for our Bishop, Pastors, congregations and members of this Synod.