

# STRENGTHEN AND GROW YOUR MINISTRY

## LCEF MINISTRY MOMENTS VIDEO SERIES

### Financial Reporting

Rev. Billy Brath

LCEF Vice President Ministry Solutions

Congregational finances are a matter for every member, so the entire congregation should be kept abreast of the current financial status regularly, not just once a year at the annual meeting.

#### How to inform your people on congregation finances?

##### 1. Budget workshops

- Hold budget workshops long before the vote on the budget.
- This is a great way to involve non-board members in the work of your parish.

##### 2. Finance reports in publications

- In your regular publications, share summary income and expense reports for the period.
- Highlight a ministry that those dollars allow to happen or a mission your congregation supports.

##### 3. Contacts for questions

- In your publications, conspicuously place contact information for people who have financial questions for budget questions and giving information.
- This may uncover people who want to contribute to your congregation in special ways, like stock donations or estate giving.
  - Guidance on special giving: [lcef.org/dvp](http://lcef.org/dvp) or [lcmsfoundation.org](http://lcmsfoundation.org)

##### 4. Ministry stories during services

- During the service (usually during offering), consider sharing short stories or reminders about the ministries of the congregation.
- Coordinate with published reports or align them to upcoming events.
- Help people connect their giving to the ministry work.

##### 5. Special giving

- If special giving, like an emergency fundraiser or last-minute service opportunity, is needed, follow the same ideas presented.
- Publish as much information as possible, including contact information.
- Report as funds come in and share stories about what happens with the money.