

Virginia Synod Leadership Development Conference

Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations (EPIC) has moved online for 2026! This leadership development conference is designed to strengthen congregational leaders and members for their ministry in the congregation and the world.

Event Schedule

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM On Zoom



Cost & Registration

Cost: There is no cost to participate

Register at: vasynod.org/epic

Dates and Topics Offered

September 21 – What Records Should We Keep?

Pastor Mary Anderson will offer a workshop highlighting why keeping good records is important and resources that congregations can use to develop best practices for congregational recordkeeping.

Registration closes September 16.

October 19 – Planned Giving

You are invited to a one-hour, practical workshop on planned giving and endowment funds for congregations, designed specifically for pastors and lay leaders. We'll demystify how planned gifts and endowments work, name common pitfalls, and outline simple first steps, so your church can steward legacy gifts with clarity and confidence. Come ready to think about how your congregation can sustain ministry beyond this generation. Led by Pastor Paul Walters, a consultant with GSB Fundraising and former Virginia Synod pastor, Paul helps churches and nonprofits have the resources and vision to fulfill their mission. He is the co-author, with Pr. Robert Holley, of *Clear, Calm, and Connected: Reflections on Church Leadership*.

Registration closes October 14.

November 16 – Treasurer's Workshop: End of Year Preparations

November is a great time to prepare for the end of the fiscal year. This workshop with John Krallman, the Treasurer of the Virginia Synod, and Pastor John Wertz, Jr., Assistant to the Bishop, will focus on steps to take now to be prepared for the end of the fiscal year and on steps congregations can take to say thank you and encourage giving at the end of the year.

Registration closes November 11.

