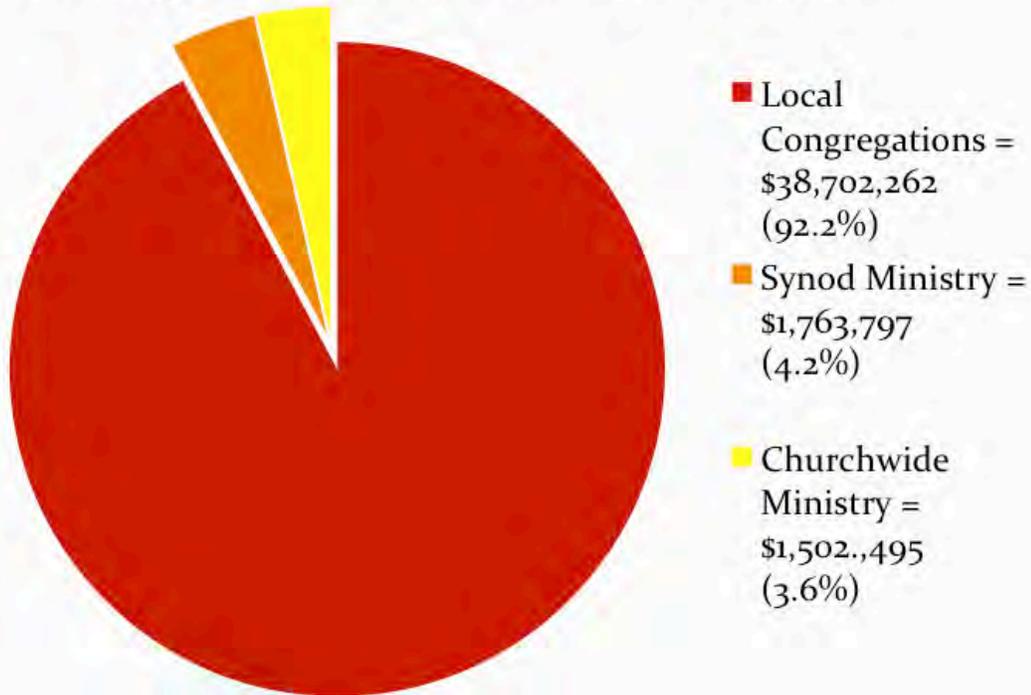


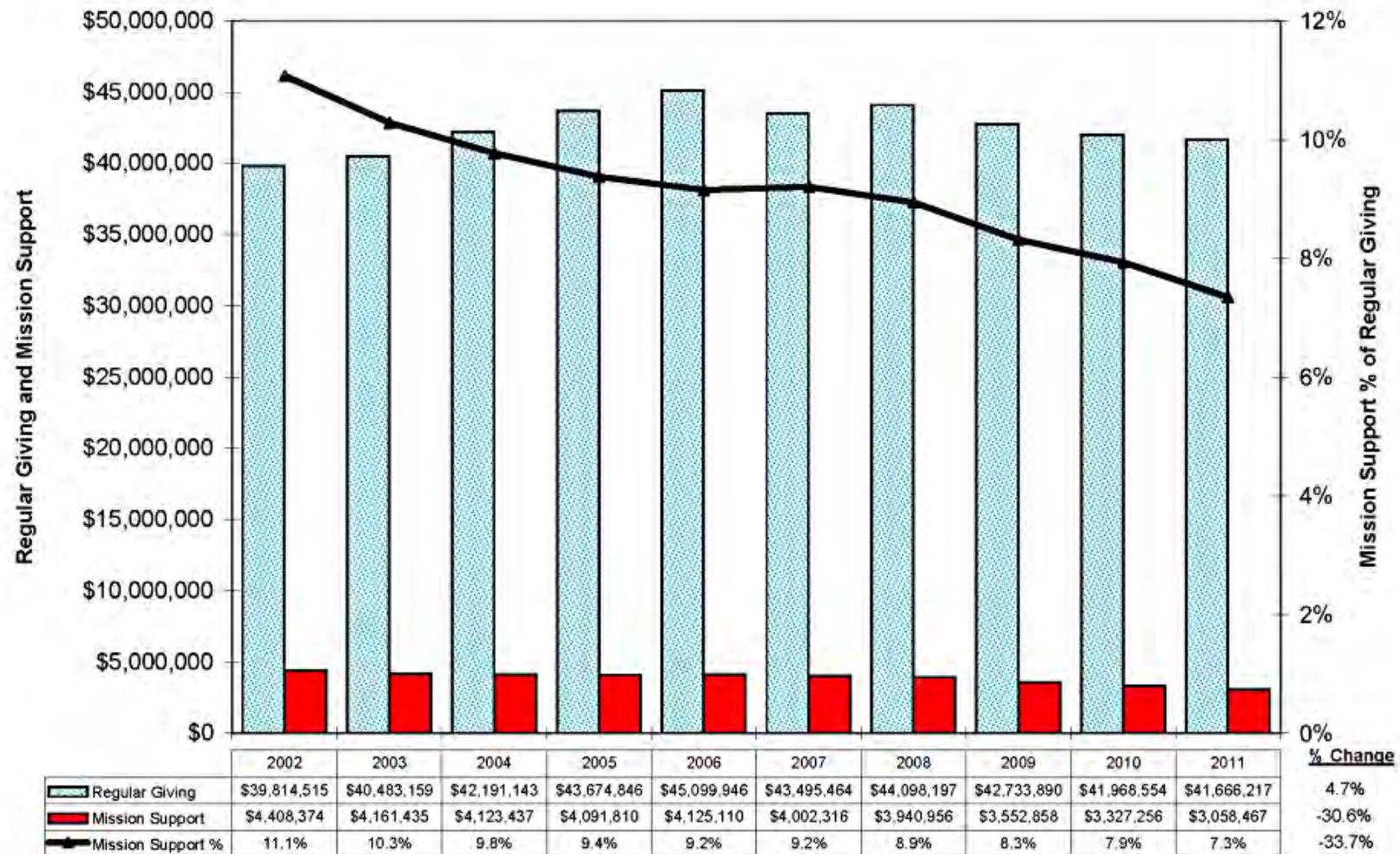
Let's Define Mission Support

**A Church that shares a living,
daring confidence in God's Grace!**



Indeed we ARE a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace—because the triune God we worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, showers us with all that we need and more so that we may dare to live in the promise of a grace-filled future rather than fear. What is "Mission Support"? It is the portion of your congregation's financial offerings that is shared with this synod and our churchwide organization to fund the ministry of the broader church. There was a time when it was called "benevolence." The pie chart before you represents the combined regular offerings of the congregations in our synod in 2010. Of the almost \$42 million in offerings, a little over 92% remained with our congregations to fund local ministry. 4.2% was shared to support ministries through our synod, and 3.6% was sent from our synod to support churchwide ministries. Thus, 7.8% was "Mission Support."

Declining trend—Mission Support



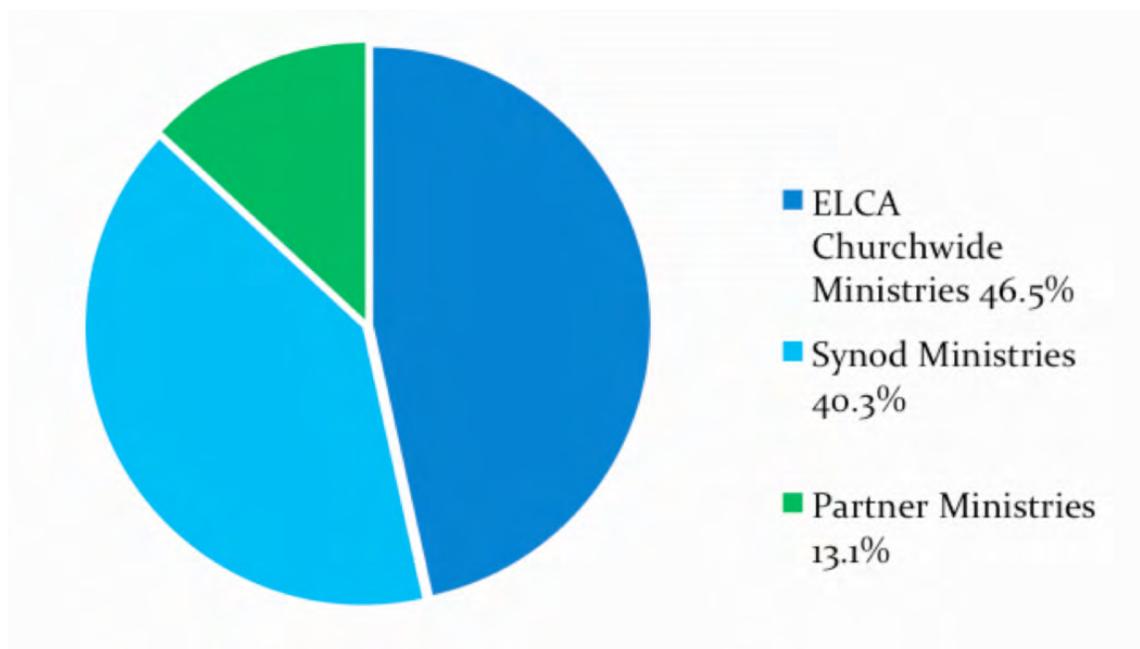
Source: Annual Congregational Report Forms. Prepared by ELCA Research and Evaluation.

5/24/2012

Although the trend in our congregations' regular financial offerings has increased by 4.7% over the last 10 years, Mission Support giving in the Lower Susquehanna Synod has declined by over 30%. In 2002, Mission Support giving was \$4.4 million and through the end of last year, it was under \$3.1 million. At the very least, these figures represent a diminished capacity for us to carry out our mission together. So far in the year 2012, the declining trend in Mission Support giving continues. With seven months remaining, there is still time to stop this trend, and then in 2013, to meet the goal set by this Assembly in its budget.

Where Your Synodical Mission Support Offering Will Go

(based on the 2013 budget)...



Looking toward 2013, this is what all of us together have said we intend to do: 46.5% of our Mission Support giving will support ELCA Churchwide ministries. These are undesignated gifts to ELCA ministries that make it possible for new mission starts and mission redevelopment in local congregations to be supported in the US. These undesignated gifts also support the work of the ELCA in other parts of the world. In addition to synodical support, since its beginning, Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church in Lancaster has received an annual support grant from these funds. So too did our Sudanese Worshipping Community last year. 13.1% of our Mission Support giving will be shared with partner ministries like Gettysburg Seminary, the Camping Corporation, Campus Ministries at Penn State, Millersville, and Shippensburg, the PA Council of Churches, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA, Region 8 ministries and more. And then, of that \$3.3 million, just over 40% will support synod ministries like the Resource Center, Children, Youth, Young Adult and Family ministries, Support and consultation for congregational and rostered leaders, the call process, and more, as well as bishop and synod staff salaries and benefits, office space and operations. Your congregation's ministry is multiplied, extended and supported by these Mission Support offerings. They are an expression of our interdependence and unity in Christ.