

2025 IMPACT REPORT



collaboration



*"If you want to go fast,
go **alone**.
If you want to go far,
go **together**."*

– African Proverb

**RISK SOMETHING BIG
FOR SOMETHING GOOD.**
thechangemakerinitiative.org

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Key Accomplishments

In 2025, your support made it possible for The Changemaker Initiative to continue spreading the movement of changemaking in congregations across the country. Groups and individuals are eager to make a difference in their communities. Structure, tools, and support are key in making dreams become reality, and collaboration is essential.

Collaboration Spotlight: Texas Methodist Foundation, El Paso UMC Churches, and Lydia Patterson Institute

In El Paso, United Methodist District Superintendent Rev. Pam Rowley saw a Changemaker opportunity not just as a program, but as a bridge. We facilitated a 10-month cohort of churches there which resulted in pairing several disconnected congregations with the Lydia Patterson Institute — a cross-border high school — for a shared mission in the community. After a pilgrimage across the US-Mexico border, the churches and school are now taking risks together to share student art and storytelling. This collaboration is empowering a new generation of changemakers to impact their city in profound ways, providing stories of hope at the border. Texas Methodist Foundation partnered with us, providing generous funding to make this experience possible. The multi-level collaboration between a foundation, a UMC Conference, several churches, our organization, and a school reminds us that working together is much more powerful than working separately.

Collaboration Spotlight: Worship Design Studio

We partnered with Worship Design Studio (WDS) out of Kansas City, Missouri, to create a Changemakers Sermon Series for pastors. This series includes multiple assets (scriptures and sermon guides, music suggestions, liturgy, children's material, small group resources, visual and graphic materials, etc.), and was advertised to thousands of congregations through the WDS network. Spreading the word about our work on this national scale led to several churches in new states participating in our 2026 cohort program.



Changemaker Church Spotlight: First UMC, Modesto, California

Changemaker churches make change and make changemakers. The pastor and lay partner at First UMC in Modesto led their congregation in embracing this idea, utilizing and adapting the tools and resources our program offers. After completing one of our facilitated cohort programs, they recognized other folks in their church had ideas, passions, and vocations for changemaking, too. They started a monthly “Changemaker SEA Group” (support, encouragement, accountability), taking turns facilitating and sharing to support each other. Through the experience, several individual lay-led changemaker projects have emerged: a community garden on church property, ESL classes on Sunday mornings, and a new HVAC company that will provide services free to nonprofits and offer job training. This continued changemaking has given new life and purpose to the church in the center of its town, as they live into their identity as changemakers.



Scan
to
Watch!



Change the Story Spotlight: Show Up, Partner with Their Purpose

Our Change the Story program pairs an emerging young leader with a team from a local congregation to bring a bold vision for community impact to life. The church team doesn't take over the dream — they come alongside the young leader, offering encouragement, resources, and partnership as together they design and implement a project that responds to real needs. Loleita partnered with City Church San Francisco to create a four-part dinner series exploring the intersection of queer identity, faith, and social justice. Through dynamic speakers, storytelling, and shared meals, more than 40 participants gathered for healing and hope, reflecting on both the challenges and triumphs of living as queer people of faith within a spiritually grounded and generous community. Alan worked with St. Paul UMC to convene 50+ neighbors whose input will shape the direction of the Filipino History Mural at San José State University — ensuring the story told reflects the wisdom and voice of the community. Ariana and Sarah joined Christ Episcopal Church to host a resource fair for undocumented immigrants. After beginning with listening sessions to understand pressing needs, they created an event that offered practical support while celebrating the richness of culture and tradition — cultivating joy and belonging in a time marked by fear and uncertainty. There can be power in new ways of connecting. These churches came alongside the young leaders — partnering in *their* purpose, caring about *their* cause — building relationships and trust as they journeyed together with a common goal.

2025
By The
Numbers

18

congregations
participated

93

total individuals
trained

15

projects launched
into communities

\$130K

granted for young
adult changemaker
projects

Changemaker Initiative Timeline

Risking Something Big for Something Good since 2018

2018

An Experiment

Los Altos United Methodist Church partners with Ashoka for a year-long experiment connecting faith and social transformation

2019

A Process

Lay participants are sparked to develop a faith-based changemaker curriculum

2020

An Opportunity

Lilly Endowment awards a \$1M grant to expand this work to other congregations

2022

A Collaboration

Working with Princeton Theological Seminary enables us to iterate and improve our approach across multiple denominations

2022

An Expansion

A second Lilly Endowment grant of \$1.5M propels us to adapt the framework for young adults

2023

An Achievement

The Changemaker Initiative is granted its own 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit

2024

A Partnership

Texas Methodist Foundation sponsors a changemaker cohort in El Paso, Texas

2025

An Amplification

Additional support from Lilly Endowment and LAUMC empowers us to scale this work more broadly

Grateful for Partners and Donors



Lilly Endowment Inc.
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TEXAS
METHODIST
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LAUMC
Los Altos United Methodist Church



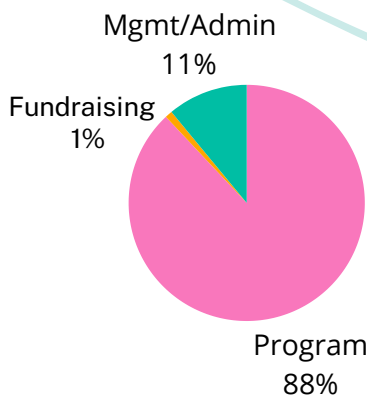
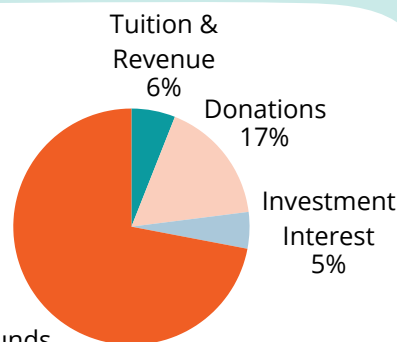
WORSHIP
DESIGN STUDIO
WDS

Be Part of Our Mission



- Share this with potential partners and churches
- Join our mailing list for newsletters and events
- Donate to continue enabling this work
- Contact us: info@thechangemakerinitiative.org

Revenue



Expenses

2026

- **Offering** “Becoming a Changemaker Church” ecumenical cohorts for congregations across the country, with cohort alumni as facilitators for this train-the-trainer program
- **Publishing** resources to enable more congregations to support and nurture individual changemakers
- **Developing** a workshop and app for congregations to learn about young adults and new ways to partner with them to make change
- **Designing** and **piloting** a youth changemaker program
- **Collaborating** with existing and new partners toward sustainability