



**The Metropolitan New York Synod
World Hunger Committee**
mnysworldhunger@optonline.net

September 2021

Dear Metro New York Synod Congregations and Pastors,

The Hunger Team of the Metro New York Synod invites you to participate in a new pilot program, the ***Feed My People Collective***. This new opportunity brings us together to focus on root, systemic causes of hunger in our communities and around the world.

You are invited to create and participate in the ***Feed My People Collective*** because God calls us to feed the hungry. You are invited, that all may be filled with the abundance God has already provided.

What is this *Feed My People Collective*? It is a grass-roots advocacy collective of congregations working for food justice, supported by the MNYS Hunger Team, and gathered to learn, to advocate, and to agitate for a just world where all are fed.

Why *Feed My People Collective*? You know how important it is to meet the emergency hunger needs of our neighbors. But fighting hunger involves more than providing people with necessary emergency food through food pantries and meal programs. It also requires us to address the issues, like poverty, that keep people reliant on our emergency food programs to meet their nutritional needs. Through this collective, we are ready to work ourselves out of a job. Through the relationships we build and our collective will, we believe that we are better equipped to engage in strong, effective advocacy for and with people who are hungry, enabling us to weed out and dismantle root causes of hunger. We are more effective, joyful, and caring advocates when we work together.

What does the Collective Offer?

- Empowerment & Accompaniment
- Tailored Coaching in Food Justice Advocacy & Mutual Accountability
- Partnership Opportunities with Other Churches
- Resources for Effective Advocacy Actions—from ELCA Advocacy, Bread for the Word, MNYS Advocacy Taskforce, New York State Council of Churches, etc.
- Official Designation as a *Food Justice Advocate Congregation*

What does the Collective Ask?

- Attend the Collective Kick-Off
- Commitment to a minimum of four food-justice Advocacy Actions
- Engage in Coaching and Partnership Opportunities
- A financial contribution to ELCA World Hunger
- 1 year commitment

Timeline:

- Participation Form due: October 15th
- *Feed My People Collective* Kick-Off Event: Saturday, November 6th via Zoom

If you have questions, contact Synod Deacon Karen Nurmi at mnysworldhunger@optonline.net or call her at 914-762-4495.

To join the *Feed My People Collective*, please complete the [Participation Form](#) and send it to mnysworldhunger@optonline.net.

We look forward to your partnership in working for food justice for all God's people.

In Christ,

The Metropolitan New York Synod World Hunger Team: S.Dcn Karen Nurmi, Robert Brent, Pr Roz Brathwaite, Pr Danielle Miller, Pr Jim Sudbrock, Ellie Sudbrock, Pr Alex Walbrodt