



Central States Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our hands.

MISSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee meets as needed to act on grant requests and administer the fund. Grants are awarded following guidelines set forth in "Grants Process and Procedures" approved by the Committee in April 2000.

Your gift could enable the Mission Endowment Fund Committee to Provide...

OUTREACH

New Congregation Starts and Revitalization of Existing Congregations

The synod Outreach Team has the responsibility, with the deployed Director for Evangelical Mission, to identify and prioritize two lists: new congregation starts and revitalization of existing congregations. In partnership with ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, the Team and Director for Evangelical Mission work together to identify and gather financial resources to support these activities. All grant requests for new congregation starts and revitalization of existing congregations originate and are submitted by the synod Outreach Team.

LEADERSHIP

Seminarian Scholarship Grants

Within the Fund, specific gifts have been given for seminary scholarships. The synod Candidacy Committee has responsibility for on-going relationships with candidates for ministry who are attending seminary. All grant requests for seminarian scholarships originate with and are submitted by the synod Candidacy Committee.

Seminary Debt Retirement Grants

The purpose of these awards is to pay down the principle on debt which pastors and other rostered leaders incurred during the course of their seminary education. This does not include debt incurred during college, graduate school or for other reasons. First Call pastors may apply for Seminary Debt Retirement Grants during the first three years following their ordination.

Emergency Financial Grants for Rostered Persons

Currently, small emergency grants are made from the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund. However, there have been occasions when rostered persons could have used emergency grants to retire unexpectedly or accrued debt and thus relieve financial pressures that can affect effectiveness in ministry. The purpose of this grant category and process is to provide not only financial resources to assist rostered persons in such circumstances, but all to assist such persons with longer range debt retirement strategies.

Rostered Persons Continuing Education and Sabbatical Grants

The current process for the Growth in Excellence in Ministry grants for continuing education and sabbaticals (extended study) has the following elements: the annual Continuing Education Covenant must be on file before award requests are considered, the award request details the purpose of the education/extended study, the amount the congregation (or ministry employer) and individual will contribute, the remaining amount to be covered by the award, and endorsement by the congregation (or employer) and by the bishop or designee.

Professional Church Workers Continuing Education Grants

Since the synod bishop has no direct oversight of non-rostered professional church workers, the process for grants in this category would not require that a Continuing Education Covenant be on file in the synod office and would not require endorsement by the bishop or representative.

Lay Leadership Education Grants

Education for lay members of the synod might include offerings by one of the synod's life-long learning centers (currently in St. Louis, Kansas City and Lindsborg), practical ministry workshops for pastor-laity teams offered through Area Ministries, and courses taken to fulfill requirements of the Parish Ministry.

Associate Program. All grants in this category would be for individual scholarship assistance for such