

The 2006 Synod Assembly adopted a resolution to raise \$1,250,000 for the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leadership Support over the next two years through congregational and individual gifts. We are grateful to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the \$80,000 grant designated to help the synod raise these funds. Please help turn this funding stream into “a river in the desert” by giving generously.

Thank you!

Please send your contribution to:

SW MN Synod Fund for Leadership Support
PO Box 499
Redwood Falls MN 56283-0499

For more information about the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leadership Support, look on the synod website or contact:

Bill Elmstrom
Planned Giving Coordinator
744 Highland Hwy.
Ortonville, MN 56278
1-800-542-0942
elmstrom@wat.midco.net



Southwestern Minnesota Synod Pastoral Leadership Funds:

SW MN Synod Fund for Leaders

- increasing the level of financial support for seminarians from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod preparing for ministry in the ELCA
- reducing the need for seminarians to take out loans to finance their seminary education
- encouraging more individuals to consider entering seminary



SW MN Synod Debt Reduction Fund

- reducing indebtedness of seminary-trained rostered leaders serving in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod by making supplemental educational loan payments
- helping clergy to serve our smaller congregations despite receiving lower compensation than available in our larger congregations



SW MN Synod Pension Equity Fund

- supplementing pension payments for rostered leaders serving in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod and enrolled in the ELCA Board of Pensions plan whose compensation is below the ELCA average

Contributors may designate that their gift be used in one, two, or all three components of the Fund for Leadership Support. The student loan repayment and pension equity components are uniquely a synodical effort and so are particularly high priorities.

Southwestern Minnesota Synod Funds for Leadership Support



Offering Hope for Rural Ministry

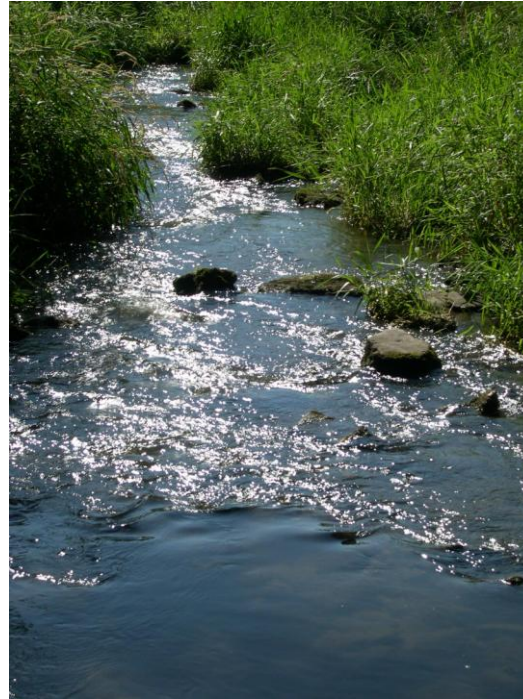
In recent decades, educational costs have risen dramatically, but rural economies have not risen at the same pace. Current seminary graduates, averaging individual educational indebtedness of \$40,000, cannot easily serve on beginning rural pastoral salaries.

Southwestern Minnesota Synod, like other neighboring rural synods, is taking steps toward debt reduction for seminarians and recently-graduated pastors who carry significant educational indebtedness. A wonderful gift of more than \$24,000 for debt reduction was disbursed in 2006. Twenty-four applicants for this grant aid received \$1,000 paid directly to their loan institutions. This funding comes as hope for many, a stream of water in the wilderness.

Two senior seminarians who hope to serve in rural ministry have received full-tuition grants in 2005 and 2006. Fifteen other seminarians have also received smaller grants in these two years from Lutheran Men in Mission in our synod.

"Please extend my gratitude to whomever helped pay down one of my student loans by the \$1,000 gift. It really helps to know people care that much about ministry."

"I just received notification of a gift from you for \$1,000 toward my seminary loans. It isn't too often that something makes me speechless, but this did! On behalf of myself and my family, please know how grateful (and humbled) we are to have received such a kindness that we don't deserve (but happily accept!). Thanks so very much!"



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Congregational Membership: _____

Donation Amount: _____

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ Other

Please make checks payable to: **SW MN Synod Fund for Leadership Support**

Thank you for your generous support of ministry in our synod!