

\$500 challenge supports seminary scholarships

Five hundred dollars can go a long way when congregations are challenged to give.

The Riverside Conference, made up of 16 congregations and organizations, had \$500 in an account following the consolidation of the synod's conferences. This year, the conference decided to donate that money to the H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Endowment, and they challenged each congregation in the conference to do the same.

The Fund for Leaders Endowment helps cover tuition costs for seminary students from the Northeastern Iowa Synod. A letter sent to Riverside Conference congregations in February explained that giving financial support to the endowment can help ensure that qualified ministry leaders will be available in the future to serve congregations and the wider church.

"A generous gift today will translate into ministry that extends far into the future," said Pastor Tim Maybee, Riverside Conference dean.

Nearly half of the congregations in the conference have already met the challenge or pledged support, with some giving much more than \$500.

When the council at St. Paul, Hampton, heard about the challenge, council members agreed they could do more, and decided on a \$1,000 gift. First-year Pastor Dan Hanson had shared with the council and congregation how important scholarships were in helping him through seminary.

"Knowing there is scholarship support speaks loudly to the fact an individual is not alone in discerning their call to ministry," Hanson said. "It shows that the synod and

wider church not only support, but accompany the next generation in their formation as leaders in the church."

Hanson adds that as someone who was blessed with a full tuition scholarship for seminary, he gives thanks to God for the generosity of all who have and who will support the H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Scholarship.

"What started as a simple gift of \$500 has the potential to grow more than tenfold thanks to the vision and generosity of these ministry leaders and congregations," said Pastor Mark Anderson, assistant to the Bishop. "These endowment gifts are an investment in ministries that serve families today, and for generations to come."

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Rostered ministers to gather

The ELCA will host its first Rostered Ministers Gathering in Atlanta at the Sheraton Downtown Aug. 7-10.

This event will be an opportunity for rostered ministers to assemble for worship, education and fellowship under the theme "On the Way ... Together," using the Emmaus Road story from Luke 24:13-35.

As the church continues to deepen its ecumenical partnerships, confront racism and respond to the needs of the world, this gathering provides the opportunity for

leaders to gather and explore what God has in store for them. The event features numerous workshops and service learning trips and exhibits, along with worship, Bible study and small group conversations. Keynote speakers will be Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr., and Rachel Held Evans.



The cost to attend is \$245 per person if registered by May 31; \$295 if registered June 1 – July 23. Meals are included. To register or to learn more, visit www.elca.org/rmg, email 2017MinistersGathering@elca.org or call 800-635-3522.