

How Mission Support is Used for Synod Ministries

by Pastor Mark Anderson Ministries
Assistant to the Bishop

As we get ready for the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, it is the time of year again when people ask “What is a Synod? What does a Synod do? How does the Synod spend our Mission Support?”

This is too short a space to review all the synodical ministries or narrate the budget, but here is a summary of what I think readers will care about the most.

Sharing Jesus and supporting congregations

Evangelism

- Use a strong social media presence to proclaim the Word, call the church to prayer, and lift up and encourage congregations’ witness.
- Consult with congregations who request assistance in renewal, stewardship, and evangelism.
- Accompany our new worshipping communities in Farley and Parkersburg.

Passing on the faith from our generation to the next

Youth, Family, & Young Adult Ministry

- Provide help for parents to teach the faith to their children.
- Support youth workers and youth ministry.
- Offer Christian leadership training for high school students.
- Support campus ministry.

Ensuring there are pastors for all our congregations

Leadership

- Walk with candidates through the process of becoming pastors and other rostered leaders.
- Secure funding to support Seminary Education.
- Train and coach new pastors.
- Guide congregations through the call process.
- Provide continuing education opportunities for rostered leaders.
- Help church leaders to prepare to retire.

Feeding others and giving everyone a fair chance to succeed

Poverty & Justice

- Domestic Hunger Grants fund community and church gardens to grow food for food shelves, food banks and community meals.
- Barnabas Uplift provides job training for the unemployed.
- Provide funding to Lutheran Services in Iowa for the care of children,

families, the elderly, and people with special needs.

In addition to undesignated “mission support,” the members of the Northeastern Iowa Synod last year gave:

- \$177,000 to ELCA World Hunger
- \$55,000 to support Lutheran World Relief
- \$49,000 to support missionaries
- \$48,000 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign
- \$15,500 to Domestic Disaster Response

We give thanks for all those people and congregations who give to support the wider church and for all the ministries these gifts make possible.

If you want to reprint this article in a different format in your newsletter or bulletin, contact Marcia Hahn, hahnm@neiasynod.org or 319-352-1414.



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