



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**ELCA Fund for Leaders
Montana Synod
2015 Annual Report**

Thank you to the people of the Montana Synod for making an investment in the future of this church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. Our goal is to provide full-tuition support for every rostered ministry candidate at the ELCA seminaries, and together, we are making great progress toward that goal.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$1.45 million in support of 241 future pastors and rostered lay leaders. Thank you for your role in ensuring that those who are called to serve our church have the opportunity to pursue a path that leads to informed faith and passionate discipleship.

As of Dec. 31, 2014, the Montana Synod Fund for Leaders scholarship endowment had the following:

- A total market value of \$136,841.45
- Estimated earnings of \$5,221.35
- Outright gifts in 2014 of \$79,212.12
- A remaining balance in the income account of \$1,975.10
- Amount available for scholarships in the 2015-2016 academic year: \$6,475 (amount includes a 10% conservative cushion to account for sudden market fluctuations)

Since its inception, the Montana Synod Fund for Leaders endowment has awarded scholarships of \$4,000 for seminary tuition, and the ELCA in total has awarded more than \$11.1 million.

If you choose to spend more than the amount we calculated as available for scholarships this academic year, keep in mind that market variations may occur and if there is not enough available to pay what is promised to the students, we will need to deduct the difference from your spendable amount in the following year. We encourage you to prayerfully discern which rising candidates would benefit most from the support you can offer.

Finally, we ask the Montana Synod, its congregations, and its members for continued support of the ELCA Fund for Leaders as a meaningful way to make an investment in the future of this church and its leadership. It is a wonderful way to celebrate your pastor's ordination anniversary, the installation of a new pastor, or the anniversary of your congregation.

For more information, please visit ELCA.org/fundforleaders, or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2749

Guide for Synod Scholarship Funds

Eligibility Criteria

The ELCA Fund for Leaders provides scholarships to candidates for ordained and rostered lay ministry. The synod may choose to support its candidates in a way that best meets the goals of the synod using the following criteria:

- Enrolled at one of the ELCA seminaries
- Have a positive entrance decision through the ELCA candidacy process
- Pursuing ordained or rostered lay ministry in the ELCA
- Will not be on internship during the upcoming year

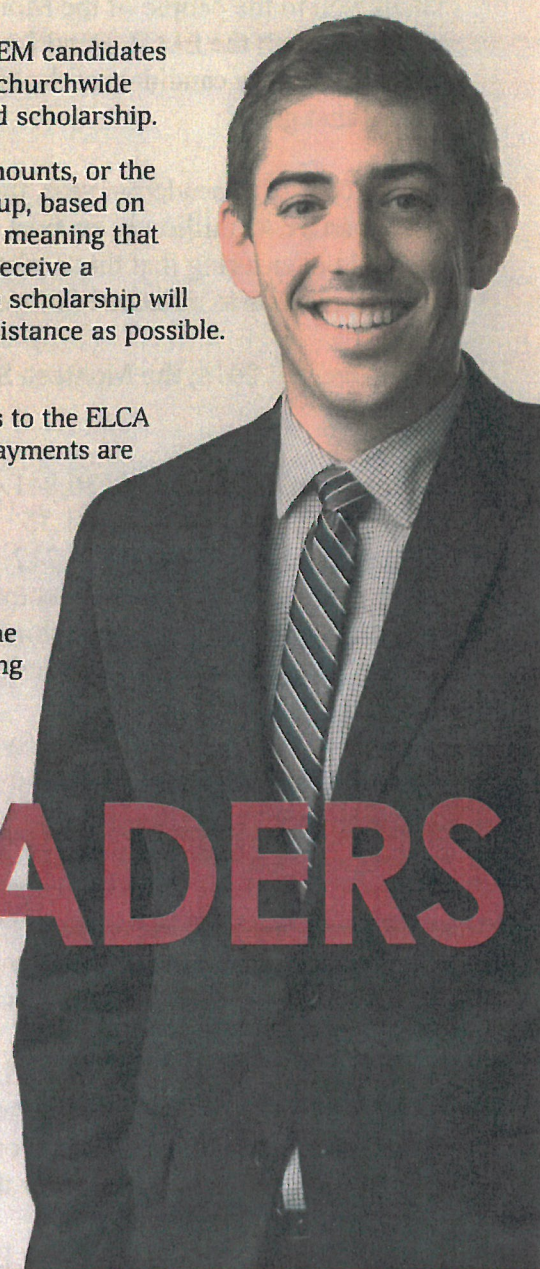
Students do not need to be full-time, and both distance learning and TEEM candidates are eligible. Students already receiving full-tuition support through the churchwide ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program are not eligible for a synod scholarship.

Scholarships can be awarded to all candidates equally or in differing amounts, or the synod can develop a competitive process to award funds to a select group, based on merit or need. Synod scholarships are awarded on a year-to-year basis, meaning that students must be “re-selected” each year, even if the same student will receive a scholarship several years in a row. If a synod cannot find a candidate, the scholarship will still be awarded so as to ensure that as many students are receiving assistance as possible.

Distribution and Recognition

Scholarship payments are made directly from the ELCA Fund for Leaders to the ELCA seminaries, where they are credited to the appropriate student accounts. Payments are made only twice each year – in the fall and spring semesters – and each payment represents half of the scholarship amount awarded.

We highly encourage each student to acknowledge congregations or individual donors who have supported the synodical scholarship fund. Instructions for this as well as contact information should come from the synod. Please do not notify students of their award before first conferring with the ELCA Fund for Leaders office about the amount available.



ELCA FUND *for* LEADERS

We encourage you to include the enclosed report in your synod assembly materials. It provides information about the amount available for scholarship in the 2015-2016 academic year. **We recommend spending no more than 95 percent of the amount available**, in order to protect against negative market fluctuation and to leave some cushion for future years.

*Benjamin Hogue, scholarship recipient
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.*

Please provide the following information for each of your synod's scholarship recipients no later than May 1, 2015: Name, email address, phone number, class year, seminary, scholarship award amount. Send by email to carol.mycio@elca.org.



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