



ELCA Fund for Leaders
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
2018 Annual Report

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

In the 2017-18 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$2.1 million in support of 251 future pastors and deacons. Thank you for your role in ensuring that these future leaders will be freed from the burden of student debt so that they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Your fund

Since its inception, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Fund for Leaders endowment has awarded scholarships of \$28,166.61 for seminary tuition, and the ELCA in total has awarded more than \$17.5 million. We are grateful that the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Fund for Leaders scholarship endowment provided a total of \$4,100.00 in tuition support during the 2017-18 academic year for:

- Edintzon "Edy" Santos - \$820 - Wartburg Theological Seminary
- Jose Francisco "Frank" Salvador - \$3,280 - Wartburg Theological Seminary

As of Dec. 31, 2017, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Fund for Leaders scholarship endowment had the following:

- a total market value of \$108,976.88;
- a total of \$1,254.89 in new gifts in 2017;
- a remaining balance in the income account of \$2,753.08; and
- **\$4,200.00** available for scholarships in the 2018-19 academic year (represents amount after a 10 percent conservative cushion retained by Fund for Leaders to account for sudden market fluctuations).

2018 awards – what's new?

Beginning in 2018, the ELCA will use a new platform, **ELCA GrantMaker**, for awarding scholarships and grants. As in the past, we are looking forward to receiving the name(s) of the students your synod wishes to support this year through synodical Fund for Leaders scholarships. This year, synods will also direct their applicants of choice to ELCA GrantMaker, where they will submit their contact information to Fund for Leaders. Please read the **Guidelines for synod scholarship funds** document carefully for instructions on this year's scholarship award process.

Although Fund for Leaders awards are intended primarily to pay for tuition, books and fees, students who already receive full-tuition support through Fund for Leaders may also receive synodical scholarships to help with additional expenses. Note that scholarship funds used to cover costs beyond tuition, books and fees (such as room, board, insurance, etc.) will count as taxable income to students and should only be granted provided that there is a clear understanding between the synod and its donors about how the funds will be applied. Please work with seminary financial aid offices to make sure your students are aware of the tax implications of such scholarship awards.

We will notify synods by mid-April of our full-tuition award decisions for the coming year so that synods may plan accordingly. We encourage you to prayerfully discern which rising candidates would benefit most from the support you can offer. **Synods should notify Fund for Leaders and students of their nominations no later than May 15, 2018, and nominated students must complete the Fund for Leaders Synod Scholarship application in ELCA GrantMaker by May 31, 2018.** Applications received after this date run the risk of not being awarded in the fall semester.

Finally, we ask the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, its congregations, and its members for continued support of Fund for Leaders as a meaningful way to make an investment in the future of this church and its leadership. A gift to Fund for Leaders is a wonderful way to celebrate a pastor's ordination or a deacon's consecration, the installation or retirement of a new pastor or deacon, or the anniversary of a congregation.

Again, thank you to the people of Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod for your generous support, and thanks be to God for you!

For more information visit ELCA.org/fundforleaders or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2936.