



Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PROPOSAL TO BRIARWOOD DIRECTORS

2025 Requests for Sabbatical/Renewal Support from the NT-NL Synod Briarwood Legacy Endowment Fund

Thanks to the Briarwood Legacy Endowment the NT-NL Synod is able to provide grants for rostered/authorized leaders to assist them in taking time for renewal and education.

For the purposes of these grants the following definitions are in place...

Renewal is a shorter term (1-2 weeks) time of intentional rest and regeneration. This can include travel to a conference or other educational program. But the primary focus is on the leader taking time for themselves, focus on prayer and worship, and be present for family as appropriate.

Sabbatical is a longer term project (1-3 months) which can include rest and renewal but also there is an expectation of a sabbatical project/focus. Ideally this project/focus will benefit the congregation in which the individual serves and a report of the sabbatical is expected.

The goal is partnership with the congregation. All requests must first be approved by the congregation council. It is assumed the congregation will also be providing financial support for this opportunity.

To qualify for a grant the individual must be...

- 1) Rostered/Authorized in the NT-NL Synod
- 2) Under call/contract to a congregation or NT-NL Synod
- 3) Has been in that call/contract for at least 4 years
- 4) If a sabbatical it must meet NT-NL guidelines as defined in Synod Staff handbook
- 5) Must be approved by the congregational council or synod council

Sabbatical grants are available for up to 50% of the cost to a maximum of \$5,000.

Renewal grants are available for up to 50% of the cost to a maximum of \$5,000.

To receive such a grant the applicant must submit their plan to the executive team of the synod council through the office of the bishop (office@ntnl.org). If approved the funds will be disbursed to the congregation (not to the individual).

A report of the outcome of the Sabbatical/Renewal experience is expected to be submitted to the congregation and synod.

2/1/2025