



## + SW MN Synod, ELCA – Funding Initiative

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In 2016, the SW MN Synod Funding Initiative began with three goals in mind:

1. *Deepen Congregational Vitality*
2. *Enhance Local and Global Mission*
3. *Develop Servant Leaders and Ministerial Excellence*

Here's what has happened as a result of gifts to the Initiative:

- Mission assessment tools have helped congregations identify their mission in light of current local realities.
- 12 congregations participated in stewardship training.
- 4 Energizing and Mobilizing events had participants from more than 50 congregations.
- 45 pastors and leaders received training in personal and congregational finance and stewardship.
- 465,000 meals for food-insufficient people in SWMN were packed and deeper relationships formed in racially diverse communities through *Better Together Food Packing events*
- 5 young adults received scholarships to visit our Companion Synod in South Africa.
- Lay preachers received training and support.
- Through the Ministerial Excellence Fund (Lilly Grant):
  - 54 pastors received Debt Reduction grants totaling \$199,936.
  - 15 pastors received Medical Emergency grants of \$1000 each.
  - 10 pastors received Retirement grants (for those compensated at less than Synod Guidelines or participated in the Challenge Grant) totaling \$8,011.
- 16 first-call pastors received scholarships for a financial literacy and planning retreat.
- A Rural Horizon Internship at Redwood Central Parish was funded.

The Funding Initiative, ***Embrace God's Mission + Equip God's People*** enables us to fund areas of ministry that help us be church together.

In the first two years of the Initiative, congregations, church organizations, special fundraisers, and individuals in SW MN Synod have contributed more than **\$1,140,000**. These gifts have enabled us to (1) *Deepen Congregational Vitality*, (2) *Enhance Local and Global Mission* and (3) *Develop Servant Leaders, including the Ministerial Excellence Fund*.

Thank you for participating in your synod's *Embrace God's Mission + Equip God's People!* Together we have all we need.

### ***SW MN Funding Initiative Lead Team Members:***

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