

March 25, 2019

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

At our 2008 Synod Assembly, we adopted a resolution that encourages every member to contribute towards an Endowment Ministry that would benefit seminary students from our Synod who seek to become pastors and serve the work of Christ through the Church.

As you may know, the cost of a seminary education can be a challenge. College graduates who incur debt for their undergraduate degree add to that debt when they must also pay for seminary tuition, books and living expenses. Our Synod is committed to the goal of providing full tuition scholarships for our Northern Great Lakes Synod students who are studying for pastoral ministry.

We have made great progress! Over a half-million dollars has been raised so that currently, full time students receive \$10,000 a year and half-time students receive \$5,000. We are a leader in our support of our students.

My hope is that we continue to build this fund which has been a blessing to so many. Reverend Ann Gonyea of Eden, Munising has this to say:

*“When I decided to go to seminary, I knew I hoped to come back to the U.P., and if I didn’t, that I would likely be called to another rural setting. So right from the beginning my goal was to incur as little education debt as possible so that I could answer a call like that without having to worry about high student loan payments. NGLS seminarian support was absolutely key to making that goal attainable. Thanks be to God. I am so thankful for this and the ability to serve a rural congregation.”*

This year, you are invited to receive an **“Answer the Call”** offering on any Sunday in May. A bulletin insert is enclosed for your use. Let people know ahead of time that this offering will be received.

Thank you for your partnership in this effort, and your generosity in helping to equip leaders for future pastoral ministry!

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

