

Greetings Rostered Ministers –

The applications for 2023 Vital Leaders Endowment grants are now available!!

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?** Any minister who is on the ELCA Roster or a roster of one of our full communion partners and is/was under call in Eastern North Dakota Synod during 2023 is eligible to apply. If you are new to Eastern North Dakota Synod and have questions, be sure to ask your conference colleagues how these grants have benefited them! Also, if you know of colleagues who served in EaND Synod during 2023, but are no longer serving in EaND synod, please feel free to forward this information along to them!

**In order to receive funds, you must have made payments in 2023.**

**APPLICATION DETAILS:** Applications are attached to this email. **PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW AND ON THE APPLICATION!**

### 1) **STUDENT LOAN DEBT REPAYMENT GRANT**

**WHAT IS IT?** A grant to help relieve rostered ministers of student loan debt. The grant amount is a percentage of what is paid by the rostered minister over the course of the year. The percentage paid by the endowment fund increases with each year of service in Eastern North Dakota, up to 6 years. Your first year, you receive \$100 per month of service in EaND, after that the base is \$750.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- There are **two forms (tabs)** to the application - the Cover Sheet and the Calculation Sheet. You need to complete both.
- Supporting documentation of all loan payments **MUST** accompany this application. (ie: a print out from your online account). Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- If you received a debt repayment grant last year, please make sure that the synod payment is **NOT** included in your total paid for 2023.
- Completed applications must be **postmarked or dropped off at the synod office no later than April 30, 2024.**
- To protect your personal information, **electronic applications WILL NOT be accepted!**
- All application data must be entered into the excel document. **No handwritten applications will be accepted.**
- **BE SURE TO VERIFY YOUR LENDER INFORMATION** and make sure your lender mailing address and account details are correct! **DO NOT JUST COPY YOUR INFORMATION FROM LAST YEAR!** Often times loans are sold to different companies or their payment processing address may have changed. If there are any changes to your lender information between the time that you submit this grant and

the time that grants are disbursed, you are responsible for notifying the synod office. **If your grant payment is returned because incorrect information was provided, your grant may be forfeited.**

## **2) PENSION EQUITY GRANT**

**WHAT IS IT?** A grant to assist those who may be compensated under synod guidelines to ensure that their pension is not compromised as a result of accepting a call under guidelines. **If your total defined compensation is less than \$60,000 you are eligible for this grant.**

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- Supporting documentation of compensation from Portico **MUST** accompany this application. Incomplete applications may be denied. (A screen shot of your total defined compensation page suffices for this)
- Completed applications should be mailed to the synod office and must be **postmarked or dropped off at the synod office no later than April 30, 2024.** To protect your personal information, **electronic applications WILL NOT be accepted!**
- All application data must be entered into the excel document. **No handwritten applications will be accepted.**

## **WHERE DO THESE GRANTS COME FROM?**

These grants are made possible through the ministry of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Vital Leaders Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to recruit and retain strong rostered leadership in Eastern North Dakota. These grants are a way for the synod to provide care for Rostered Ministers in our synod who faithfully contribute to the work we do together as a synod. To maintain a healthy culture in Eastern North Dakota Synod, it is expected that Rostered Ministers faithfully participate in synod assembly, fall theological conference, and complete boundaries training every three years. Grants may be denied to leaders who have not met this expectation.

**QUESTIONS??** If you still have questions after reading this entire email, please contact Pastor Jon Olson at 218.205.4748 or [endowment@eandsynod.org](mailto:endowment@eandsynod.org).