

“An Extra Scoop”
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Director of Funds Development

Saying “Thank You” has always been one of my favorite things to do. At an early age I learned saying “thank you” could be not only polite—but also profitable. Our favorite place to go in town was Shupee’s Drug Store. Shupee’s had an old-time (wasn’t old-time back then) soda fountain where—if we were good boys on the errands—we could each get a chocolate milkshake. Since we did this almost every week, Mr. Shupee knew the Sheldon boys well. Each week as we reached for our milkshakes, my brother and I would say an enthusiastic “thank you!” Then we noticed our milkshakes started growing! And sometimes they would have an extra scoop of vanilla ice cream sitting on the top. Mr. Shupee would smile when we looked at him, and he would say, “You’re welcome.” We loved Mr. Shupee....

I think of this now because we have heard from so many of you in response to our December letter to help fund our shared regional mission. And, for the first time, several presbyteries sent letters inviting support—and received over \$135,000 in gifts and pledges! Countless congregations have reported generous year-end support in addition to their usual pledges. These gifts are “extra scoops,” on top of consistent, generous pledges through the years. Such generosity deserves special recognition and gratitude. *Thank you!*

It also serves as a reminder to our leaders that the best way to get more is to say “thank you” for what we’ve already received. We in the church are not very good at saying “thank you.” The people who get the fewest “thank you’s” are those closest to us. I wish I had been as good at saying “thank you” to my mother as to Mr. Shupee. As I have aged, I am working on being more appreciative of those family members who give so much and so consistently. It’s easier to give thanks for milkshakes than for breakfast cereal. One is a treat; the other is sustenance. Both make life a joy. Besides, who *bought* the milkshake?

So to all of you who give quietly and consistently to support the ministry God has given, through your congregations and beyond, let me say “thank you” on behalf of all those you touch with your generosity.

Let me also assure you that if you have an “extra scoop” hanging around and are looking for a place to share it, I would love to work with you and will enthusiastically say, “thank you!” And if you say “thank you” to me, I will be sure to say, “You’re welcome.”

We’re all in this together!

The Synod is Here to Help!

It is always fun to share good news, so here it comes: the synod is here to help! As you know, the synod has undergone an overhaul in recent years—new executive, new structure, newly-defined mission—and its leaders are beginning to “put feet” to our dreams. Our geography makes many ministries more effective and cost-effective when done as a group than individually. Some have already begun, like training for Committees on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry, and stewardship support for congregations. Others will be unveiled soon. So watch for new, innovative ministry ideas from your regional governing body—the Synod of the Rocky Mountains. We’re here to help!