

Indiana District Pastor Student Debt Reduction Assistance Fund

“ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.” -Ephesians 3:20-21

Concerning Church Authority and the Office of the Keys

“Our teachers’ position is this: the authority of the Keys (Matthew 16:19), or the authority of the bishops—according to the Gospel—is a power or commandment of God, to preach the Gospel, to forgive and retain sins, and to administer Sacraments. Christ sends out His apostles with this command, ‘As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you...Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld’ (John 20:21-22)...This authority is exercised only by teaching or preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments, either to many or to individuals, according to their calling. In this way are given not only bodily, but also eternal things: eternal righteousness, the Holy Spirit and eternal life. These things cannot reach us except by the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, as Paul says, ‘The Gospel...is the power of God for salvation to everyone that believes’ (Romans 1:16). (AC XXVIII 5, 6, 8, 9)

POLICY STATEMENT- The purpose of this Indiana District Pastor Student Debt Reduction Assistance Fund is to receive gifts and bequests and to use such gifts and bequests for the financial assistance of called and ordained pastors of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod serving within the Indiana District. This assistance will be supplied in the form of grants given for student loan debt reduction.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” – Romans 12:2

GUIDELINES - The congregations of the Indiana District value education that nurtures and supports the development of the outreach efforts within our District. It is the prayer of the Indiana District that these funds would equip and empower pastors by helping remove the financial obstacles that block outreach efforts. Therefore, we commit ourselves to uphold and encourage the continued development of pastors through prayer and financial resources.

Funds may be distributed for, but not limited to, the following purposes:

- Educational debt elimination grants to called and ordained pastors serving in the Indiana District.

FUNDING- Funding for this granting program will be dependent on donor designated gifts. The Indiana District will encourage gifts to this Indiana District Pastor Student Debt Reduction Assistance Fund because it is unable to be subsidized by the Indiana District Budget.

ADMINISTRATION - This fund shall be evaluated and administered by the Indiana District Grants Committee. The Grants Committee shall oversee the fund activity including receipt of additional designated gifts, review of all grant applications and recommendations to the Board of Directors of the District for final approval of grant disbursements.

GRANT PAYMENTS – Grants are available for student loan debt based on proof of outstanding indebtedness with an annual request maximum of **\$5,000**. Final amount awarded is dependent on several factors including but not limited to the total number of applications received and available funds.

(Note: Some Grant payments may be subject to Federal and State Income Tax depending on the applicant's situation. Please consult with the District Office Finance Department for additional information or questions.)

APPLICATION PROCESS – Application forms are available on the Indiana District Website. Applications are due January 31th and July 31st each year for grants to be awarded March 31st and September 30th.