

# SHARE YOUR SUPPORT

I/we will support the work being done through Leading Together. I/we will make a contribution of:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ (other)

<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard/Visa
<input type="checkbox"/> Discover	<input type="checkbox"/> Pledge

Your name (with title):
Your address:
Your phone:
Your email:
Signature:
Card number:
Expiration date:
Name on card:
Today's date:
Name and location of your home congregation:

Please detach and mail this section to Southeastern Minnesota Synod, 1001 14th St NW, Suite 300, Rochester, MN, 55901. Please make all checks payable to "SE MN Synod." Give online at <http://semnsynod.org/leadingtogether>.

## GIVE ONLINE:

[SEMNSYNOD.ORG/LEADINGTOGETHER](http://SEMNSYNOD.ORG/LEADINGTOGETHER)

# THE TIME IS NOW

*"The Christian church is at a critical juncture in its life and mission. Now more than ever, we need compassionate and qualified leaders to share God's good news within our congregations and our communities. Through your gifts to Leading Together, we are able to enhance our ability to provide in-depth seminars and educational experiences for our clergy and lay leaders, making them more able to live out our calling to follow Jesus and proclaim God's love in a changing world."*

Rev. Susan Miller, Assistant to the Bishop,  
Call Process

## ABOUT US

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is comprised of 121,000 baptized people. Our synod supports approximately 174 congregations, 200 active rostered leaders and 180 retired rostered leaders. The Office of the Bishop is located at Assisi Heights in Rochester, MN.

1001 14th St NW - Suite 300  
Rochester, MN 55901  
507-280-9457

[HTTP://WWW.SEMNSYNOD.ORG](http://WWW.SEMNSYNOD.ORG)



RESPONDING TO THE  
SPIRIT'S CALL

*Special Focus:  
Developing Leaders*



**Southeastern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*Equipping congregations and leaders to follow Jesus into a changing world.*  
Developing leaders • Equipping congregations • Accompanying global partners



## LEADING TOGETHER

As a synod, we are fully committed to developing leaders, equipping congregations, and accompanying global partners. The mission support dollars that congregations direct toward the synod are a crucial means by which we live out our mission. Yet we believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to stretch toward even bigger ministry goals as a synod. In order to reach these goals, we need the financial support of individuals and families. **Your contribution to Leading Together will impact lives locally and abroad.**

## OUR GOALS

**DEVELOPING LEADERS:** *will raise up 35 new leaders for the church*  
**\$78,000**

**EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS:** *will provide half the congregations in this synod the opportunity to collaborate with a coach*  
**\$69,000**

**ACCOMPANYING GLOBAL PARTNERS:** *will support Rev. Wal Reat and his ministry as a pastoral missionary to the refugee camps*  
**\$53,000**

*Financial figures above include seven percent administrative cost to cover staff involvement in these initiatives, administrative expenses, and fundraising costs.*

## Special Focus: Developing Leaders

In the next three years, 35 pastors in this synod will reach retirement age. In 2016, this synod only received three new seminary graduates. This means a rostered minister shortage is just around the corner. **You can help us turn those numbers around!**

To sustain and expand vibrant congregational leadership, we have identified the steps necessary to identify 35 new ministry candidates by the end of 2019! We will seek to guide them into effective leadership in their calls to ministry as pastors, deacons, and synodically authorized ministers.

At the 2017 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, we invited participants to share the names of people who would be great candidates for ministry. We received a multitude of names, and now we're inviting all of those people to an upcoming discernment retreat. The retreat will be a place for those gathered to truly listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance. For those who do sense a call to ministry, we will do all we can as a synod to encourage them throughout the candidacy process.

Discernment retreats are just one of the ways this synod is developing leaders. With your generosity, we can continue to expand leadership development opportunities in this synod.

## WHY IT MATTERS



It was the Holy Spirit's invitation through the encouragement and prayers of others that led me into pastoral ministry, and for 40 years I have loved being a pastor. That's still how it works - the Holy Spirit continues to invite people into ministry through the encouragement and prayers of people like you and me. Might the Holy Spirit be using you to invite someone into ministry?

*-Bishop Steven Delzer*



What does God want with God's church? One thing we know for sure is that we need more leaders who are equipped to ask this question and lead the church to wherever God is calling. Leading Together provides resources to help us lift up more leaders for the future.

*-Deacon Mary Kay DuChene,  
Assistant to the Bishop -  
Faith Formation/Candidacy/  
Leadership*



I am grateful to be a part of a synod that supports campus ministry in its vital role of raising future church leaders, like myself, and supporting us through the candidacy process.

*-Jens Nielsen, Synod  
Ministry Candidate &  
Operations Manager at  
Lutheran Campus Ministry -  
Mankato*