

WEST VIRGINIA/WESTERN MARYLAND SYNOD-ELCA: "A Seed Planted" Mission Fund

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. -- I Corinthians 9-11

BACKGROUND

Synod established "A Seed Planted" Mission Fund in 1996 to stimulate innovative outreach by or from congregations. Awarded grants went for a range of activities from a coffee house Bible study to printed promotional material to efforts with unaffiliated populations. Synod Council awarded grants after a process that included consultation from the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) and an application reviewed by an evangelism and mission committee. Said committee no longer exists. Grants ranged up to \$6,000, and there was a practice to maintain a core amount in the fund (\$30,000). In 2018, Synod Assembly allowed critical reexamination of "A Seed Planted."

FUNDS & PROCEDURE

The synod will maintain a minimum amount in the fund to earn interest and sustain it. Synod Council may periodically adjust the minimum amount but without going below a minimum threshold of \$30,000.

When available funds would reach or exceed \$6,000 beyond the minimum threshold, the Bishop or the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) may identify outreach activity of a congregation of WV-WMD Synod for a grant. Criteria for award of a grant:

1. The mission activity would clearly reach a population of unaffiliated people (64.5 % of the population in West Virginia, and 63.4% in Garrett County, report they are unaffiliated with any religion; nationally it is 51%)
2. The mission activity would express the gospel of Jesus Christ as amplified in Lutheran Confessional tradition and the doctrinal foundation of the ELCA
3. The mission activity would complement the Word and Sacrament ministry of the Church
4. Means of assessment would be clear, and the activity would be replicable or sustainable

Upon identification by the Bishop or DEM, a congregation would submit a proposal to Synod Council, stating:

- a. The mission activity and plans to implement
- b. How activity would meet the four criteria, stated above
- c. Budget to implement the grant
- d. timeline and means of assessment of the mission activity

Synod Council may accept or reject any proposal, and the applicants may submit a revised or different proposal in consultation with the bishop and DEM.

News of mission outreach supported by "A Seed Planted" should go into synod assembly and synod communications for the inspiration of others.

10.26.18 GW