

Guide for Synod Scholarship Funds

Eligibility Criteria

The ELCA Fund for Leaders provides scholarships to candidates for ordained and lay rostered ministry. The synod may choose to support its candidates in a way that best meets the goals of the synod providing candidates meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled at one of the ELCA seminaries
- Have a positive entrance decision through the ELCA candidacy process (or be in progress)
- Pursuing ordained or lay rostered ministry in the ELCA
- Will not be on internship during the upcoming year

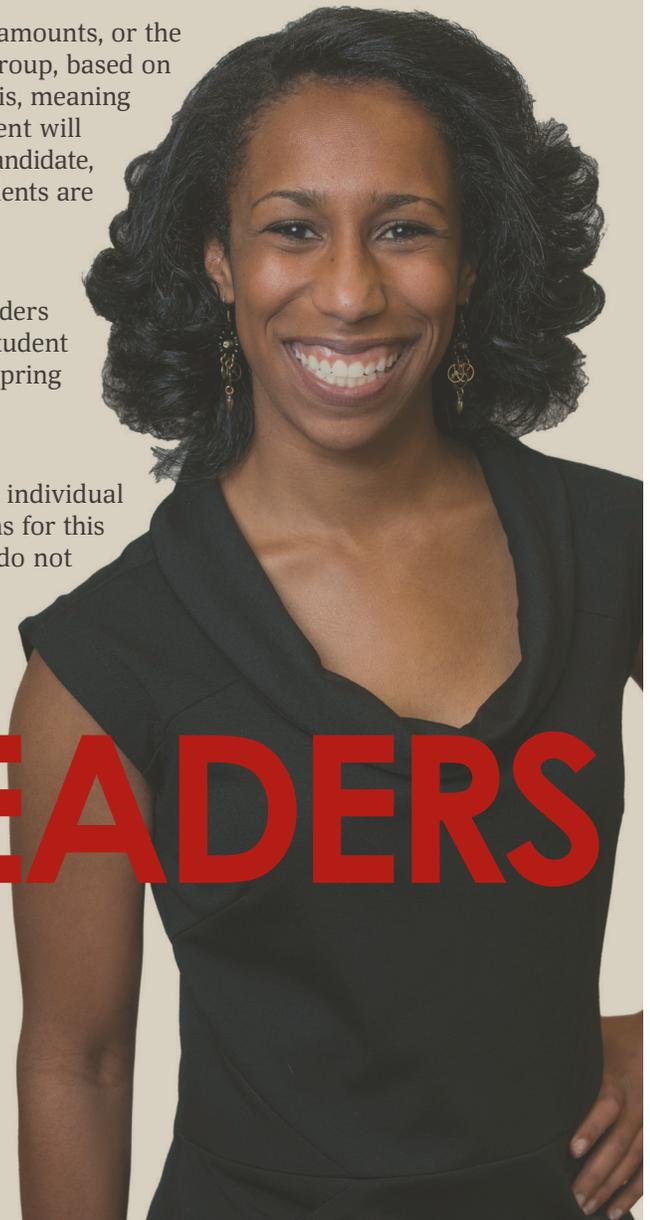
Students enrolled in distance learning, TEEM candidates, and Fund for Leaders full-tuition scholarship recipients are all eligible to receive scholarships. Students do not need to be enrolled full-time in order to receive an award.

Scholarships can be awarded to all candidates equally or in differing amounts, or the synod can develop a competitive process to award funds to a select group, based on merit or need. Synod scholarships are awarded on a year-to-year basis, meaning that students must be “re-selected” each year, even if the same student will receive a scholarship several years in a row. If a synod cannot find a candidate, Fund for Leaders may still award scholarship funds to ensure that students are being provided with as much assistance as possible.

Distribution and Recognition

Scholarship payments are made directly from the ELCA Fund for Leaders to the ELCA seminaries, where they are credited to the appropriate student accounts. Payments are made only twice each year – in the fall and spring semesters – and each payment represents half of the scholarship amount awarded.

We highly encourage each student to acknowledge congregations or individual donors who have supported the synodical scholarship fund. Instructions for this as well as contact information should come from the synod. Please do not notify students of their award before first conferring with the ELCA Fund for Leaders office about the amount available.



ELCA FUND *for* LEADERS

We encourage you to include the enclosed report in your synod assembly materials. It provides information about the amount available for scholarship in the coming academic year.

We recommend spending no more than 90 percent of the amount available, in order to protect against negative market fluctuation and to leave some cushion for future years.

*Elizabeth Peter, scholarship recipient
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg*

Please provide the following information for each of your synod's scholarship recipients no later than the first week of May: Name, email address, phone number, class year, seminary, scholarship award amount. Send by email to FundforLeaders@elca.org.



ELCA Fund for Leaders
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.