

Resolution to Spend "Raising Up Leaders" Account

WHEREAS the La Crosse Area Synod participated with the 5 other synods of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan in the Bishops' Initiative for Developing Ordained Leaders from 2004 to 2010 which came to be known as "Raising Up Leaders" in the La Crosse Area Synod; and

WHEREAS the initiative was funded by the Siebert Lutheran Foundation with the purpose "to create a church pond or ecosystem that will complement the work of synods, congregations, camps, seminaries, and homes of the ELCA Lutheran Church within Wisconsin and Upper Michigan in identifying, nurturing, and developing rostered leaders for public ministry"¹; and

WHEREAS there is \$51,403.19 left in the Raising Up Leaders account²; and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Youth Leading Evangelism team was charged with designing a proposal for spending the remaining grant money that honors its original purpose and vision, responds to current needs, supports the work of partners who focus on faith development of youth, and provides for ongoing replenishment of funds for such purposes; therefore be it

RESOLVED that for each of the next three years \$15,000 be divided in the following way:

- \$3,000 be given for a Lutheran Campus Ministry Scholarship for Music and Worship Leadership³,
- \$3,000 be allocated for Youth Ministry Seed Grants for Congregations, where up to \$500 will be given to congregations who have new and creative ways of working with youth and young adults⁴,
- \$2,500 be allocated to subsidize a synod-wide Adult Training Event led by a highly commendable educator,
- \$2,375 be equally divided among all members of the La Crosse Area Synod who are enrolled in the Certification in Youth and Family Ministry program by Vibrant Faith Ministries and Wartburg Theological Seminary⁵,
- \$2,125 be given to Sugar Creek Bible Camp to fund 5 need-based camperships for the high school Students in Training – Leaders in Training (SIT-LIT) program⁶,
- \$2,000 be allocated as an honorarium for a Social Media / Videographer of Youth & Young Adult Ministry who is between the ages of 16 and 24⁷; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Lutheran Youth Leading Evangelism team develop publicity that celebrates the ministry funded through these dollars for the purpose of generating future gifts that will provide financial support to raise up faithful leaders in this synod; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Lutheran Youth Leading Evangelism team oversee the disbursement of the grant money and provide a detailed annual report to the synod council and synod assembly.

¹ The La Crosse Area Synod specifically focused on training adult lay leaders in faith formation through Wartburg Seminary's Youth and Family Certification School, organizing "Call to Ministry" events with summer camp staff, training for pastors in faith formation principles and practices through "Shaping Future Leaders" events, leading youth in "Invitation to Service" events, and tracking and connecting with young people who expressed interest and displayed gifts for ordain ministry. Many of the La Crosse Area Synod's congregations now enjoy the "long-lasting fruit" of the Bishop's Initiative, including over 20 leaders who are

certified in youth and family ministry, a culture shift in congregations' approach to youth ministry from ministry *for* youth to ministry *with* youth, and congregations who foster regular rituals for families within the home that strengthen faith in all generations.

² The grant money was awarded for three, three year cycles in 2004, 2007, and 2010 to fund programming and the part time synod coordinator staff position. In 2011, the La Crosse Area Synod's coordinator resigned before the grant money was depleted.

³ Weekly Worship is vital to Lutheran Campus Ministry in La Crosse. This scholarship is competitive with other similarly funded positions on campus. Paying a student for this work will insure a level of accountability (expectations for weekly planning and leading), consistency, and quality that is not currently present. Details and stipulations of the scholarship will be designed by the La Crosse Area Synod Lutheran Campus Ministry Board. Supervision of the position will be provided by the campus pastor.

⁴ Limit one grant per year per congregation for new projects only. Congregations are encouraged to engage in cooperative endeavors. Preference will be given to projects that are: designed and/or led by young people, sustainable over time, inclusive of both the congregation and the larger community, imaginative and experimental. The application process and oversight for these grants will be the responsibility of the Lutheran Youth Leading Evangelism team.

⁵ These dollars will be shared equally among all in the La Crosse Area Synod who are enrolled in Certification school. Certification School is for adult leaders, volunteers, clergy, parents, youth and seminary students who have a passion for forming vibrant faith among young people. The cost of the program is \$1995. For more information about the curriculum, go to:

<http://www.wartburgseminary.edu/academics/certificate-programs/youth-family-ministry/>

⁶ Nearly 70% of those who serve the ELCA as rostered leaders report having formative faith experiences in either campus ministry or outdoor ministry. SIT-LIT is a two-week program at Sugar Creek Bible Camp in Ferryville, WI for students in grades 11 and 12. The cost of this program is \$425 dollars. Eligible students will be recommended by the pastor of any La Crosse Area Synod congregation to the registrar of the camp upon the student's registration. For more information about SIT-LIT, go to:

http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/?page_id=184.

⁷ The videos will be compiled of images and videos from synod congregations and made available through the synod's website and social media. Materials produced will be used to promote the ministries and activities supported by the grant money and to encourage additional gifts. The Lutheran Youth Leading Evangelism Team will develop a job description, publicize and pursue interested parties. The synod staff will provide supervision.