

## Initiative to address economic challenges facing rostered leaders

The Lilly Endowment has awarded a study grant of \$25,000 to the NC Synod to develop a proposal and plan that will address the economic challenges facing rostered leaders in our synod.

If our proposal is approved, we will receive a \$500,000 grant to achieve these three initiative objectives:

1. Establish a Ministerial Excellence Fund to make grants/gifts to our rostered leaders to address their financial challenges (up to \$250,000 of the grant is designated for this fund if we raise another \$250,000)
2. Educate rostered leaders to increase their financial literacy and management skills
3. Educate congregations about key economic challenges of rostered leaders and actions they can take to address those challenges



### ***How will we do this?***

We will accomplish this project in part through a series of surveys. One survey will be sent directly by email to all rostered leaders; we anticipate sending before synod assembly. Another survey is currently being conducted by conference deans and other leaders who are contacting rostered leaders, spouses, and congregation financial chairs/treasurers throughout our synod. We are also researching data from Portico and congregational annual reports as well as researching other organizations who have addressed economic challenges of pastoral leaders.

### ***Who is working hard on this project?***

Caroline Mocko is the Project Director and leads a team of 13 people, rostered and lay leaders, who will bring their gifts together to write the best possible proposal for this grant.

### ***How can I help?***

Please respond to any and all surveys you receive to help our team gather the most accurate information possible. We need congregational chairs and treasurers to participate in the surveys. Join us for a Breakfast Table Discussion during synod assembly or find us for conversation. This time will allow anyone who has not been interviewed previously to offer their thoughts.

### ***When will we know more?***

The grant proposal will be submitted to Lilly Endowment by **August 19, 2016**. The grant will be **awarded by December 2016** with implementation to begin in 2017.