

ELCA VOCATION SUPPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 10, 2009

Report to Congregation Council

MISSION: To help identify, provide encouragement and financial support for the development of individuals to serve Christ and His Kingdom through ministry in a church related vocation.

In recognition of our Mission, the ELCA Vocation Support Committee has approved support for two candidates to study at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Marianne Brock is seeking candidacy for the ELCA Roster of Diaconal Ministers. This requires participation in the two week Diaconal Formation Event at the Seminary in January 2010 in addition to course work leading to a Master's degree. Diaconal Ministers are consecrated for service in ministries at the intersection of church and world. It is a ministry of word and service. The committee has approved a loan in the amount of \$4,600.00 for the 2009-2010 academic year for two three credit courses and the Formation Event. As previously reported, Marianne's loan forgiveness is ongoing as she is employed full time by the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

Lori Anne Mc Bride is pursuing a Certificate in Theological Studies seeking to enter the Christian Education profession. The committee has approved a loan amount of \$1,000 which will be paid from 2010 budget funds. Total cost of this 3-year program is \$6,990. Lori began her program this fall, but has no outstanding loan at this time.

Both candidates will be recognized at the New Members Luncheon on October 25, 2009 in Fellowship Hall following the morning worship services.

The Rev. James Dunlop, previous recipient of the loan funds continues to serve as full-time pastor. He is completing his final year of loan forgiveness through continuation of his full time pastorate at St. John's Lutheran Church, Littlestown, PA.

Current Church Vocation Loan Fund balance is \$7,519.54. Fall tuition expense of \$1,425.00 and payment of \$1,750 for the Formation event will leave a balance of \$4,344.54. This balance requires an amount of \$5,655.46 in the 2010 budget to bring the beginning balance of the Fund to the required \$10,000.

All policy pages related to ELCA Vocational Support have been updated and include our new Mission Statement. Changes have previously been submitted to A&P and the Executive Committee and have received approval. These changes include the elimination of the Undergraduate Loan Fund, and the removal of the Full Time employment requirement for loan forgiveness.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hunter, Chair