



# Upstate New York Synod

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### BISHOP'S FUND FOR SEMINARY DEBT REDUCTION APPLICATION

**Purpose:** The Seminary Debt Reduction Fund initiated through donations made to the 2016 and 2017 Bishop's Appeal is designed to provide financial assistance grants for those rostered ministers in a call in the Upstate New York Synod who are experiencing financial challenges and have a significant amount of educational debt. The fund was envisioned as an ongoing synod fund.

Qualifications: Recipient must be an ELCA Rostered Leader serving under call in the Upstate New York Synod and demonstrate a responsible payment history through documentation.

Applications must be received no later than September 30. Applications may be submitted by mail to: Bishop's Fund for Seminary Debt Reduction, Upstate New York Synod, 5811 Heritage Landing Drive, 1st Floor, East Syracuse NY 13057 or sent electronically to [kneugent@upstatenysynod.org](mailto:kneugent@upstatenysynod.org) with 'seminary debt application' in the subject line.

Candidates will be notified of the Committee's decision by November 30, concerning grants to become effective the next year.

NOTE: All items submitted will be treated in strict confidence. Please assure that all reference to any Social Security Number is blacked out on attachments submitted with this application. This application and attachments will be shared only with the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for review and all applications and attachments will be shredded after the selection cycle concludes.

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_
2. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_
3. PRESENT POSITION \_\_\_\_\_
4. ORDAINED \_\_\_\_\_ ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_  
(year) (year)
5. List any other grants you are or anticipate receiving in the next year.

*Grounded, Growing, Giving, Graced*

5811 Heritage Landing Drive, 1st Floor, E. Syracuse, New York 13057  
Phone: (315) 299-4955 Fax: (315) 299-4981

[www.upstatenysynod.org](http://www.upstatenysynod.org)

6. List current educational loans, original amounts, current balances and source of each loan. Please provide the most recent statement for each loan including current balance and monthly payment.

7. In what ways is the applicant currently serving beyond the local church, i.e. conference, synod or churchwide?

8. What are the applicant's financial resources? [Include current sources of household income and expenses; assets and other financial resources available to assist in paying off the debt. Please provide copies of the first two pages of your most recent income tax return.]

9. Amount being requested \_\_\_\_\_ (Maximum \$500/year)

10. Have you received a previous grant from the Synod Debt Reduction Fund?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Amount of grant received \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information and granting process:

- A. Requests for a grant shall include a cover letter to describe the financial need, a detailed description of amount of debt currently managing, and a narrative explaining how the receipt of a grant will assist the applicant. Applicant may submit any additional information they believe will be helpful to the committee in making a decision.
- B. It is the expectation that the applicant is current with their educational loan repayments and will continue to maintain regular efforts in paying down balances.
- C. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council, with input from the respective conference dean shall receive all proposals and vote on the recommendations.
- D. Application deadline is September 30 of each calendar year. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council will make determinations and notify applicants by December 31. Disbursement of funds will be made jointly to the recipient and loan institution.