

Middle Tennessee Seminarian Assistance Fund

Purpose:

The Middle Tennessee Seminarian Assistance Fund (MTSA Fund) is established to help seminarians who have been entranced through the Southeastern Synod candidacy process with expenses related to completing the requirements to become a rostered leader in the ELCA. Priority will be given to expenses not covered by other scholarships and financial aid, such as affiliation fees, tuition for courses for the Lutheran year (for those attending a non-ELCA school), CPE costs, books, travel and housing required for distance learning coursework, etc. Requests for assistance in covering other expenses will be considered for funding if all of the priority need requests have been met. Students may submit funding requests to cover costs from the previous semester or the coming semester.

Eligibility to Apply:

- Entranced in the candidacy program of the Southeastern Synod
- Member of a congregation in the Middle TN Deanery and officially supported by that congregation in the candidacy process. (See below for list of eligible congregations.)
- Awards shall be made without discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, national origin or ancestry, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, military status.

Selection Criteria:

Funds will be awarded on the basis of financial need, as determined by the MTSA Fund Oversight Board.

Procedure:

Accounting: The MTSA Fund will be held by the Southeastern Synod as a restricted account. Information on the amount of money in the fund will be available through the monthly financial reports of the Southeastern Synod, posted on the synod website. The MTSA Fund Oversight Board will also keep records of contributions and disbursements.

Oversight: The Middle Tennessee Seminarian Assistance Fund Oversight Board will consist of three rostered ministers from the Middle TN deanery. The Oversight Board will oversee disbursement of information to seminarians, review funding requests, grant funds to the seminarians, keep accounting records, and encourage fundraising efforts. None of these members shall serve on the candidacy committee at the same time that they oversee the MTSA Fund. Only these three individuals will be able to request funds from the MTSA Fund account through the treasurer of the Southeastern Synod.

Application Process: Seminarians who meet the eligibility requirements may apply for funds by submitting the Middle Tennessee Seminarian Assistance Fund Funding Request Form to the MTSA Fund Oversight Board via email: MTSAFund@gmail.com.

Deadlines to submit funding requests:

- June 1 (*award decision by June 15*)
- October 1 (*award decision by October 15*)

Contribution Process: Congregations, organizations, and individuals who wish to contribute to the MTSA Fund may do so via the Southeastern Synod website, designating the funds to the “Middle Tennessee Seminarian Assistance Fund.” Individuals may also give funds to their congregation, who will forward the donations to the synod.

Relationship with Candidacy Committee: The MTSA Fund Oversight Board will maintain a relationship with the Southeastern Synod Candidacy Committee. The Oversight Board will notify the Chair of the Candidacy Committee when awards are made; the Candidacy Committee may inform candidates from Middle TN about how to apply for financial support from the MTSA Fund.

Congregations of the Middle TN Deanery:

Advent Lutheran Church (Murfreesboro)	First Lutheran Church (Nashville)
Celebration Lutheran Church (Mt. Juliet)	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Nashville)
Christ Lutheran Church (Clarksville)	Memorial Lutheran Church (Nashville)
Christ Lutheran Church (Nashville)	Peace Lutheran Church (Spring Hill)
Christ Lutheran Church (Shelbyville)	St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Franklin)
Christ Kiswahili Lutheran Mission (Nashville)	St. John’s Lutheran Church (Nashville)
Crowell’s Chapel (Unionville)	St. Timothy Lutheran Church (Hendersonville)
Faith Lutheran Church (Lebanon)	Trinity Lutheran Church (Tullahoma)

The Middle Tennessee Seminarian Assistance Fund Overview and Priorities

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Middle Tennessee Seminarian Assistance Fund Funding Request Form

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Affiliations

Home Congregation: _____ City: _____

School(s): _____

Internship Site (if applicable): _____

Candidacy Status (Entranced, Endorsed, etc.): _____

Funding Requests

Provide the MTSA Fund Oversight Board with a list of specific expenses related to your training for ministry for which you'd like to apply for funding. Examples include (but are not limited to) affiliation fees, travel or housing expenses, books, CPE costs, and tuition assistance. Remember that we prioritize expenses which are not covered by traditional scholarships and financial aid. You may submit requests for outstanding expenses from the previous semester or for expected expenses for the upcoming semester.

Please include a short summary of where you are in the candidacy process (stage in candidacy, education, internship, etc.) as well as some details about your funding requests and financial need(s) at this time. You are encouraged to include any other information you find relevant to helping the Oversight Board understand your financial need.

Please e-mail this completed form and the information requested above to
MTSAFund@gmail.com.