

Educate, Equip, Enact (3E): *3E Remains for You, for Us!*



Educate, Equip, Enact (3E) is the Rocky Mountain Synod program, begun in 2017, that shares a 3-year \$500,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment, part of their *National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders*.

Last year, our headline read: “3E *is* for you...” and now we are glad to report that 3E *will remain* for you, for us. While our grant concludes at the end of 2019, the great news is that we have been invited to apply for a Phase II, *second* 3-year grant that will begin January 2020. The 3E team is actively preparing the grant application now and planning the most effective programs, based upon what we’ve learned in the first three years, for the Phase II grant.

In the three years of our grant, 3E, through its Ministerial Excellence Fund, will have shared \$290,000 with 90 rostered ministers (pastors and deacons) to help address financial challenges. This program has helped transform our culture and thinking around money throughout the Synod. Through the MEF, pastors and deacons have received grants and scholarships to increase their capacity for healthy ministry by alleviating education, credit card, medical and other emergency debt and helping supplement retirement savings or continuing education.

60 congregations (including 27 that begin at this year’s Assembly) will have participated in Stewardship for All Seasons, a remarkable stewardship program. The results have been fruitful in many of the congregations that have engaged in this collaborative opportunity. Because of their growth in giving, the Synod Mission Support from congregations to the Rocky Mountain Synod for 2018 exceeded expectations, an increase of 2.1% over the previous year. This enabled us to share generosity by growing our commitment to Churchwide ministries for 2019.

20 rostered ministers participated in a pilot coaching program, receiving a set of coaching sessions with a certified coach. For many, this was a life-changing experience that dramatically improved their outlook on work and life while improving leadership skills. Coaching helps participants tap into their potential, unlocking sources of creativity and productivity.

For the Phase II grant, we plan to extend and “scale” these ministries within and even beyond the Rocky Mountain Synod. The new Lilly grant will require us to raise monies equal to the granted funds. This provides a combined challenge *and* opportunity that will continue help us transform our culture toward sustainable, life-giving practices in ministry.

We will hear from Lilly about the status of our Phase II grant application in the early autumn. We will share an update as soon as we hear from Lilly. Thank you for sharing in the blessings of Educate, Equip, Enact, a truly transformative ministry in the Rocky Mountain Synod.