



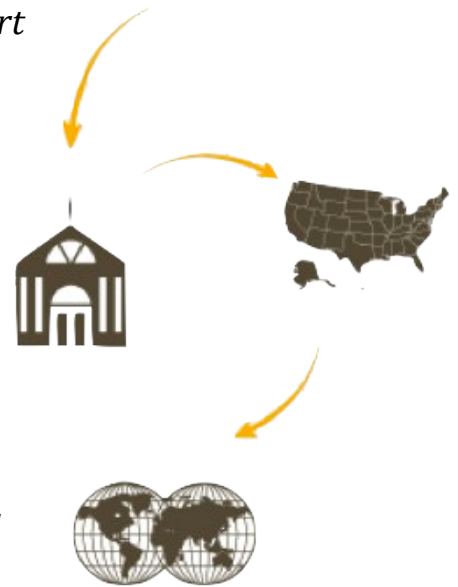
## Mission Support FAQ's

### 1. How much does the South Dakota Synod receive in mission support?

*In 2010 congregations remitted \$1,692,000 in Mission Support, and \$139,000 in SD Synod Only Mission Support for a total of \$1,831,000.*

### 2. How is that money divided up? (figures for 2010)

- **CHURCWISE WORK:** 43% of the Mission Support was forwarded to the ELCA Churchwide Organization for a total of \$727,000.<sup>1</sup>
- **SOUTH DAKOTA AND REGIONAL MINISTRIES:** 25% of all Mission Support (both regular and SD only) was used to support 16 separate South Dakota and Regional Ministries such as Campus Ministry, Lutherans Outdoors, LSS, Flandreau Indian School, and many others. Also, 43%, or \$59,000 of the SD Synod Only Mission Support was retained for special mission projects and needs here in South Dakota.
- **SYNODICAL MINISTRY:** 33% or \$600,000 of all Mission Support (both regular and SD only) was used for the ongoing work of your Synod's Ministry such as: working with congregations in transition or conflict, preparing future church leaders in candidacy, planning and planting new churches and new ministries, assisting congregations with renewal and stewardship ministries, administrative support, etc.



### 3. What has been the trend in giving?

*Since its peak in 2008, giving from congregations is down 17%.*

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<sup>1</sup> For information on how the dollars are used for God's mission through our ELCA Churchwide organization, see page 27 of "Stories of Faith in Action" or examine the ELCA budget on the ELCA website at <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Treasurer/Churchwide-Budget.aspx>

#### 4. How has the Synod dealt with the shortfall?

*The shortfall has impacted all aspects of our shared mission and ministry. Our commitment to the wider work of the ELCA and to the South Dakota and Regional Ministries is based on a percentage of mission support, so those partners have had to work with 17% less. In our Synodical Ministry we've cut 3 and ½ full time positions and eliminated an education program.*

#### 5. So does that mean that God's mission in South Dakota is in decline?

*No! In spite of economic turmoil and controversy over sexuality decisions, we have been blessed to participate in God's mission in exciting ways in the last two years:*

- *We started 2 new brand new congregations (3 others continuing in development)*
- *We saw an increase in grants to renewing congregations of nearly \$60,000*
- *We caught the vision "that all may be filled," with the goal of eliminating hunger in South Dakota by 2015, and ensuring that the gospel is proclaimed to "every hungry soul."*
- *Over 50 members of South Dakota ELCA churches are preparing for full time service in the church.*
- *8 congregations received funding to participate in Vibrant Faith congregational training, 18 more to start soon.*
- *We trained 20 new Steward Leaders to provide stewardship education and leadership throughout our synod.*
- *We enhanced our communication with congregations by launching Mission Interpretation ministry and improving our website and digital communications.*
- *We published the South Dakota Synod "Cookbook" that shares delicious recipes and inspiring stories of what God is doing through our hands around the state.*

