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# Recommendations: Mission Funding

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## Background

The November 2005 meeting of the Church Council authorized the creation of a Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding for the purpose of studying mission funding in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Blue Ribbon Committee completed a report with recommendations for the April 2007 Church Council meeting (see Section V, page 1ff).

## Recommendation for Assembly Action

1. To give thanks for the manifold ways in which God has blessed richly the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with faithful members and abundant resources;
2. To acknowledge God's summons to be good stewards in commitment to the mission entrusted to the Church and in the responsible management of the resources entrusted to members;
3. To receive with gratitude the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
4. To commend the content of the report for study and reflection throughout this church; and
5. To foster renewed commitment to vigorous mission-support efforts throughout the congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in a wide variety of ways, including:
  - a. examination of "best practices" for mission funding, alternative methods of generating mission-support income, and an improved consultation process for synods and the churchwide organization;
  - b. commitment by the churchwide organization to convene stewardship leaders—including synodical stewardship committees, Lutheran professional advisers, and others—to encourage greater widespread ownership of stewardship endeavors throughout this church and to provide training, motivation, and inspiration;
  - c. evaluation of stewardship education programs as well as the development and implementation of a strategy for stewardship leadership and staffing;
  - d. development of educational opportunities for all those preparing for rostered leadership in this church through seminaries, programs of theological education for emerging ministries, and lay schools of theology;
  - e. establishment of a requirement, by autumn 2009, for continuing education (6-10 hours) in financial stewardship for first-call rostered leaders to help them build upon competencies learned and practiced during their seminary education;
  - f. engagement of new models for the role of the churchwide organization in financial leadership; and
  - g. dissemination by the churchwide organization and synods to an increasing number of member households of regular, clear, and concise communication that is focused on mission interpretation.

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