

**NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY FOR THE INCREASE OF THE MINISTRY**  
**924 Farmington Ave., West Hartford CT 06107**

**Contact: Thomas Moore** [contactandinfo@simministry.org](mailto:contactandinfo@simministry.org)  
**(860) 233-1732**

**August 17, 2009**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM) received a \$100,000 bequest from the estate of Christopher R. P. (“Knobby”) Rodgers. A dedicated Episcopal layman and man of strong faith, Mr. Rodgers believed it was critical to the church’s future to help and encourage those who feel called to serve the Episcopal Church as ordained leaders. SIM has provided financial support for over 150 years to men and women studying for the ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church.

“Our goal remains the same as established at a meeting of seven clergy and one layman at Trinity College in Hartford in 1857,” said Thomas Moore, SIM’s executive director. “This visionary group formed SIM ‘to find suitable young [people] for the Episcopal ministry and aid them in acquiring a thorough education.’ Mr. Rodgers’ gift is equivalent to that of the layman of 150 years ago—a farsighted gift of support for the future ordained leadership of the Episcopal Church.”

Among a multitude of contributions of time, talent and treasure to Episcopal churches, Mr. Rodgers served on vestries in New York City and Princeton, New Jersey. He was inspired by the preaching of the Rev. Canon John Mitman, SIM’s executive director from 2001 to 2008, at Episcopal churches in Del Ray Beach, Florida and Blue Hill, Maine, where Mr. Rodgers was a very active layman. “SIM is grateful for a man of such humility, devotion and vision,” Mr. Moore said.