

July 18, 2008

Dear SIM Grant Recipient,

At least since 1970, our General Conventions repeatedly have expressed concern over the funding of our seminaries and the alarming increase in indebtedness of our seminary graduates --- but have never stepped up to the plate to provide any funding to help alleviate the financial stress. With your help, this is about to change.

Dean Kevin Martin of St. Matthew's Cathedral in Dallas (c1) and the Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton, rector of St. Paul's in Chatham, NJ, and President of the Women's Caucus of the Episcopal Church, using the HODB list serve and their personal contacts have undertaken to encourage all deputies and bishops to propose resolutions in their diocesan conventions to memorialize GC to provide funding for seminary scholarships in the coming triennium. The resolution calls for \$100 K in the first year, \$150 K in the second and \$ 200 K in the third. Given SIM's track record of 151 years of administering such scholarships for the whole Church, the funds would be administered using the Society's application process. The amounts were chosen with the specific intention of doubling the scholarship money currently available through SIM (\$225,000 for the academic year 2008-09).

Enclosed is a sample resolution for you to review and use as you may see fit. This resolution has been submitted to the convention of the Diocese of Connecticut for a vote later this fall. An electronic version is available on our website, www.simministry.org. We, of course, would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have. This same message has been sent to you via snail mail as well.

We hope you will help us with this! It's beyond the time for walking our talk. With seminary enrollments down 25%, with seminarian indebtedness at an all time high and the termination of the MDiv program at Seabury-Western, it's time to act!

Thank you and God bless you.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Moore III, Executive Director

Enclosure