

**NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY FOR THE INCREASE OF THE MINISTRY**  
West Hartford CT 06107  
Contact: Thomas Moore [contactandinfo@simministry.org](mailto:contactandinfo@simministry.org)  
(860) 233-1732  
[www.simministry.org](http://www.simministry.org)

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM) holds Annual Meeting**

#### **Broad-based support helps meet economic hurdles**

A 20 percent increase in the number of individual donors in 2008, coupled with the \$50,000 grant from a Colorado foundation and two major gifts from individuals has helped to mitigate a shortfall in scholarship funds for postulants and candidates preparing for ordination, Thomas Moore III told members of the Board of Directors of the Society for the Increase of Ministry (SIM) last month.

“The good news is that the increase in new donors included a \$250,000 grant over five years from the Castle Rock Foundation of Denver, Colo., major gifts of \$12,000 and \$25,000 during the past year and another \$46,000 in donations of thanksgiving upon the retirement of SIM’s former executive director [The Rev. Canon John L.C. Mitman] last fall” said Mr. Moore.

Overall, however, donations from individuals and parishes dropped over the year, he said, as parish endowments and budgets were cut sharply due to the depressed investment market and poor economy. Parish donations dropped by about half, Board members were told.

“The current economic conditions make it all the more imperative that seminarians be supported,” Mr. Moore urged after the Board’s meeting. “These are difficult times for us all; it is especially so for our current future ordained leaders.”

SIM provides direct financial support to postulants and candidates preparing for ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. Throughout its history it has given more than \$6 million in assistance to nearly 5,000 men and women who have gone on to serve in parish ministries.

Mr. Moore told the story of one cardinal parish rector who has committed to support SIM by the amount of the grant he received while in seminary, multiplied by his years of service. He encouraged other SIM alumni to consider this model as one way of “giving back” and “paying forward” to today’s seminarians. Mr. Moore also noted SIM’s strategy of launching “SIMnet” on its website, [www.simministry.org](http://www.simministry.org). “In this time when all not for profits must do more with less, SIM’s alumni of 2600 active and retired clergy are assets for expanding our ministry and connections to the Episcopalian in the pew.”

### **Directors appointed**

Three new directors were appointed to succeed the Rev. Charles N. Fulton, who resigned because of conflicts with his role in the Episcopal Church's Mission Funding initiative, and Fred Osborn and the Rev. Karin Wade, whose terms of office expired. Joyce Phillips Austin of New York, Katherine B. Metcalf of New York state and Connecticut and William C. Dunakin, of Connecticut, were named to the Board.

Ms. Austin, a member of the New York Bar, has served in numerous civic organizations in New York and was Assistant to the Mayor for the City of New York from 1959-65. She is a member of Trinity Church, Wall Street; the American Bar Association and a life member of the NAACP. She is a Regent at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Ms. Metcalf, a retired development professional, was special events coordinator for the Hartford Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center and served until her retirement as director of development for both the Hartford Symphony and the Mark Twain House. She is now on the board of the Mark Twain House and has been a member of the development committee of SIM since 2006.

Mr. Dunakin, an Episcopalian who lived in Wheaton, Ill., and Milwaukee before moving to Hartford., Conn., in 1977, is a trustee of the Dunakin Religious Trust, whose mission is also to support seminarians.

### **Newly renovated website launched**

Mr. Moore reported to the Board on several new initiatives undertaken at the SIM office in West Hartford, Conn., including the launch of its extensively renovated website ([www.simministry.org](http://www.simministry.org)). The site now includes SIMnet, an online forum for SIM alumni to meet together for discussions. "Through SIMnet, SIM alumni may communicate with each other, seminarians, and donors for resources, advice and friendship," Mr. Moore said. "SIMnet can also be used for donating time and effort to SIM's mission to support future ordained leadership in the Episcopal Church, as well as contributing financially."

"Alumni will now have the opportunity to assume some operational functions of the Society, such as delivering grant checks to seminarians, providing pastoral guidance during their years at seminary and mentoring SIM graduates in the early years of their priesthood," Mr. Moore said. The website also gives visitors to the site an opportunity to contribute directly to the ministries of SIM.

The Board also noted the retirement the Rev. Canon Robert G. "Jerry" Carroon as director of scholarship programs and expressed its gratitude for his years of service to SIM.

*For more information, contact The Society for the Increase of Ministry, 924 Farmington Ave., #100, West Hartford, CT 06107. Telephone: 860-233-1732.*