



Wanda Frenchman (right) and her mother, Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman, lead the Native American Urban Ministry in Phoenix, Ariz. Wanda is enrolled in the TEEM program at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and is a 2021 recipient of a Fund for Leaders Mission Developer Scholarship.

ELCA Fund for Leaders

Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) Scholarship

By making seminary more affordable through robust scholarships, the ELCA Fund for Leaders enables more future ministers to go to seminary and helps them graduate with less debt, empowering graduates to serve where God calls them. Fund for Leaders recently expanded its scholarship assistance, newly investing in an important group – Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) candidates.

TEEM is for students who have already been identified as leaders in their communities and, through this specialized program, can be trained to better lead in their current contexts. Rather than leaving their home ministry to be trained at seminary, TEEM candidates commit to theological education and formation while serving the communities that nurtured their call.

“TEEM is doing theology in a fine balance of action and reflection, study and ministry at the same time,” says the Rev. Dr. Moses Penumaka, who serves as the director of the TEEM program at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. “TEEM is not only transforming the face of ELCA, but the heart and mind of the Lutheran church. When TEEM candidates go to seminary, the whole congregation goes to seminary. TEEM is a practical way of making congregations vital, vibrant and viable.”

On a traditional seminary track, tuition typically costs students about \$19,000 a year, but tuition for TEEM students is just \$8,000. Despite lower costs, many don't qualify for other scholarships and struggle to pay their educational expenses. These lower costs mean the Fund for Leaders investment goes further. With your help, we plan to give significant scholarships to all TEEM students who register. In our inaugural year Fund for Leaders supported 80 candidates with awards of \$5,000 each!

Why give to TEEM?

- Your gift goes directly to current students! Gifts to TEEM aren't invested in the Fund for Leaders endowment – instead, they go right to students. TEEM is a great way to invest in seminary students and see the impact right away.
- Your gift goes further – just \$8,000 can fund one whole year of seminary education for a TEEM student, and **ALL** TEEM students can receive scholarships!
- TEEM candidates are a diverse group of students that are already serving areas in which the ELCA is committed to investing. Of the students who registered and received scholarships for the 2022-23 academic year, 40% are people of color. All TEEM candidates serve *emerging ministries*, which include ethnic-specific and immigrant ministries, rural congregations, new mission starts, ministries with people who are differently abled, and more. Giving to TEEM is investing in the diverse future church we seek to become.

As our church strives to raise up leaders who both reflect and can speak to the cultural diversity in our communities, the TEEM program is an invaluable tool.

“[TEEM] is an excellent tool for acknowledging and equipping leaders for the work of mission and ministry, daily lifting up the power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through community and larger church.”

— *The Rev. Patricia Davenport,
Bishop, Southeastern
Pennsylvania Synod*

How to Give:

[ELCA.org/GiveFFL](https://elca.org/GiveFFL)

To give to TEEM through [ELCA.org/GiveFFL](https://elca.org/GiveFFL), designate the gift by clicking the drop-down box “I would like to choose an area for this gift to support.”

TEEM giving code: MCG0076

To learn more please contact:

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