**MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE FUND FAQ**

* What information will I need to fill out this application?
  + Information pertaining to your financial contributions to your congregation.
  + Information pertaining to your church’s benevolence spending.
  + Information pertaining to your income, health benefits, flex spending account (if applicable), and retirement contributions.
  + Information pertaining to any and all student loans held by you or your spouse.
* Why do you need all that information?
  + A grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. paired with Synod resources makes the MEF possible. Our responsible stewardship of these funds includes confirming that the MEF is, in fact, making a measurable difference in the financial lives of our Pastors.
* Who is going to see this application?
  + We are all reluctant to “give out” personal information. Because we want as many people as possible to feel comfortable applying for MEF grants, we assure that:
    - Each application is considered highly confidential
    - Applications will only be viewed by the MEF Team, comprised of one member of the NJ Synod Compensation Aid Fund, the Bishop, and the EMU.NJ Coordinator.
* What do you mean by “expected outcomes”?
  + EMU.NJ expects the MEF to improve Pastors’ personal financial situation, to increase the Pastor’s ability to provide leadership in the areas of stewardship and finance, to grow the Pastor’s demonstrated generosity.
* What do you mean by “non-competitive incentives”?
  + Everyone is encouraged to apply for an MEF incentive, regardless of how they perceive their need. One person receiving an incentive does not diminish anyone else’s chances to receive an incentive.