

Theological Education Fund Report
Presbytery Meeting, Nov. 6-7, 2009

The Theological Education Fund (TEF) was established to provide congregations a way to support all the Presbyterian Theological Seminaries in the PCUSA. In the PCUSA mission dollars that flow from congregations to presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly no longer are used to support PCUSA seminaries.

You might be asking: "Why should your church be involved in the Theological Education Fund?" The answer to that question might be answered with a question: "How long does your local church plan to continue its ministry with a seminary trained Pastor?" It is that basic, unless the churches of the PCUSA fund and support the Seminaries they will be forced to close and there will develop an even greater need for eligible pastors to serve our denominations parishes.

Obviously every church is being hit by the financial downturn. Yet God continues to act in great and mighty ways in the world. My invitation to each of you is to join in on what God is doing through TEF. If you can consider including TEF in your church's budget for 2010; please do so. But if budgeting for TEF is out of the question for the coming year - consider taking up a special offering for TEF and sending it in for your participation in TEF. Every dollar counts. (A good Sunday to promote such an offering in 2010 would be on September 19th - since that is "Theological Education Sunday" in our Presbyterian planning calendars.)

Across the History of the TEF, roughly 1/3 of the churches of Yellowstone Presbytery have given at one time or another. To these churches we say Thank You and invite your continued participation in TEF. To the other 2/3 of the Churches of the Presbytery - I invite you to come join us in this very tangible ministry to help continue supplying seminary-educated pastors to our PCUSA denomination.

If I can get any interpretive TEF materials to your church please let me know and I'll work with you on it. Also there will be some TEF materials available on a table at the Presbytery Meeting, November 6th and 7th at Butte, MT.

Rev. Lanny Rounds
(TEF Rep. for Yellowstone Presbytery)