



ELCA Fund for Leaders Core Values

Rooted in Faith

We remain grounded in Scripture, prayer, and the sacraments as we mature in faith. Spiritual maturity emerges through intentional practices and seasons of reflection, struggle, and transformation. ELCA rostered ministers are called to be deeply rooted in the Word and the rhythms of faith, reflecting the ELCA's emphasis on both a thoughtful theology and a vibrant spiritual life. A successful applicant will articulate not just what they believe, but how their beliefs impact the rhythms of their daily life.

Humble Curiosity

We lead by listening and learning. A faithful leader cultivates a posture of humility. Recognizing personal and spiritual growth often comes through collaboration, open-mindedness, and a willingness to be shaped by the experiences and insights of others. FFL scholars should demonstrate a passion for lifelong learning. Since ELCA rostered ministers are called to guide and mentor others in their faith journeys, it is essential they lead with a spirit of continual growth and openness to learning.

Grace-Fueled Resilience

We persevere not by our own strength, but by trusting in God's sustaining grace. Throughout life's challenges, we are comforted and guided by the Spirit's presence and develop the spiritual and emotional endurance necessary for faithful ministry. As Lutherans, we know our ability to persevere is rooted in our understanding of God's abundant grace, especially amid suffering and setbacks. FFL hopes applicants will be vulnerable and willing to share how the Spirit's presence has sustained them through hard times. As pastors and deacons, they will be called upon to bear witness to God's deep and abiding love, which is often revealed in times of pain, uncertainty, and fear.

Compassionate Presence

We embody Christ's love through authentic relationships with our neighbors near and far. This love is 'not [just] in word or speech, but in truth and action.' (1 John 3:18). Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ bring a heart attuned to the needs of others. Compassion shapes our calling to walk alongside the suffering, to listen deeply, and to act justly. Empathy is not optional; it is the lens through which we see and serve all that is beloved by God, including the earth. FFL scholars should demonstrate a commitment to living and proclaiming Christ's compassionate love in both their personal relationships as well as their public witness in local, state, national and international arenas.

Integrity and Authenticity

We lead with transparency and faithfulness to our convictions. We speak the truth in love. Integrity calls us to align our inner beliefs with our outward actions, even when it costs us. Authenticity fosters trust and allows people to move forward with us, even when we do not all agree. A successful FFL applicant will speak from the heart, trusting that the Spirit will equip them. We hope applicants will share about times they have maintained their core convictions when faced with competing values or priorities.