HOW ONE DENOMINATION IS ADDRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

THE STEWARDS OF ABUNDANCE PROJECT IN THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

JONATHAN STRANDEJORD
ADAM DeHOEK
KENN INSKEEP
HOW ONE DENOMINATION IS ADDRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

EXTENT OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EFFECTS OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EFFORTS TO REDUCE EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EVALUATION OF STEWARDS OF ABUNDANCE
Trends in the percent of indebted ELCA M.Div. graduates have generally remained flat. The most notable increase occurred between 2006 and 2009 in the percent carrying undergraduate debt.
Average total educational debt among borrowing graduates in 2014 was the lowest it had been since 2006, after controlling for inflation.
Average theological education debt among borrowing graduates has been relatively flat. In 2014, it was the lowest it had been since 2006, after controlling for inflation.
Average undergraduate education debt among borrowing graduates has increased 11 percent since 2006, after controlling for inflation, about one percent annually.
HOW ONE DENOMINATION IS ADDRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

EXTENT OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EFFECTS OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EFFORTS TO REDUCE EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EVALUATION OF STEWARDS OF ABUNDANCE
M.Div. graduates with educational debt accepted first calls more quickly than those without debt.
Educational debt impacts the likelihood and speed at which a pastor seeks a second call.

Educational debt above $60K

No educational debt

= First call  = Second call  = Other
Educational debt negatively impacts financial satisfaction.
Concern about educational debt negatively impacts satisfaction with finances...

...as well as personal relationships, health and spiritual well-being.
Pastors with high levels of debt may be less likely to take actions which would put their call at risk.
Concern about educational debt impacts the congregation’s perspective of a pastor’s leadership characteristics... as well as congregational vitality.
HOW ONE DENOMINATION IS ADDRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

EXTENT OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EFFECTS OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EFFORTS TO REDUCE EDUCATIONAL DEBT

EVALUATION OF STEWARDS OF ABUNDANCE
EFFORTS TO REDUCE EDUCATIONAL DEBT

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

ADVOCACY

STRATEGIC SCHOLARSHIPS
FINANCIAL EDUCATION

FINANCIAL COACHING

FINANCIAL WELLNESS SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS
STRATEGIC SCHOLARSHIPS
HOW ONE DENOMINATION IS ADDRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

- Extent of Educational Debt
- Effects of Educational Debt
- Efforts to Reduce Educational Debt
- Evaluation of Stewards of Abundance
FUTURE RESEARCH AND QUESTIONS