

CHURCH ORGANIZERS FOUNDATION

A Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) Firm Organized in 2016



A Shared Stewardship Approach



About Advancing The Next Generation Funding Campaign

We marvel at what the Lord has done and continues to do in the African American community within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). For nearly 150 years, our forefathers and mothers have found great joy in receiving and sharing in the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is with further great joy that we accept the Lord's call to contribute in the ways we can, anchored in the truth of God's Word and prepared for the mission ahead, to build up the body of Christ through equipping the next generation of African American Christians within the LCMS.

Get Involved - Contact Rev. Dr. Martin E. Lee at 517.755.8770

Please join us as the Lord leads you. We hope to be a blessing in every way to our beloved faith community, and to increase our contributions in love for the sake of extending God's kingdom of grace in a world filled with need. The below funds will enable the black clergy and the nearly three hundred affiliated LCMS African American congregations ownership responsibilities to directly impact the future of the souls and ministries entrusted to their care.

Strategic Initiatives Funds

- Administrative and Affinity Group Fund
- Scholarships and Grants Fund
- Teaching and Publications Fund
- Historical Museum Fund
- Conferences, Convocations and Symposium Fund



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On Thursday, March 16, 2023, the Black Clergy Caucus (BCC) Executive Committee passed the following resolutions:

WHEREAS the Black Clergy Caucus (BCC) Executive Committee has requested leadership for the development and implementation of a fundraising effort for BCC sustainability; and

WHEREAS the BCC has expressed in its Five-Point Vision the need for OWNERSHIP in ministry, and the ability to self-fund and direct financial resources to ministry, for the ADVANCING OF THE NEXT GENERATION; and

WHEREAS the BCC members have acknowledged grief over the closure of the flagship historic Concordia College in Selma, Alabama; and

WHEREAS the BCC has expressed urgency in establishing and building a HISTORIC MUSEUM for the Black Ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Rosebud, Alabama; and

WHEREAS the BCC has experienced the financial hardships of hosting annual conferences, regional conferences and convocations; and

WHEREAS the BCC has expressed discouragement over the inability to direct church worker scholarships and grants at our Concordia University System and Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS the BCC has expressed discouragement over the LCMS restructuring for the Black Ministry of the LCMS thereby eliminating the Black Ministry budget and financial discretionary oversight; and

WHEREAS the BCC members have imagined the possibility of forming a district-like model to unify the congregations, clergy, and the other professional church workers in Black Ministry (African American, African, and Caribbean), and member resources; and

WHEREAS the BCC members have contemplated the need for increased funding for black scholarly contributions in teaching, devotional and historical documentation, and publications; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a campaign name such as "ADVANCING THE NEXT GENERATION!" requires a historic and decisive response to counter such great hardship and deprivation of resources; and

RESOLVED, that the BCC appoint Rev. Dr. Martin E. Lee to lead the effort to raise a goal amount of \$85 Million in ten years to fund the "ADVANCING THE NEXT GENERATION!" campaign; and

RESOLVED, that the efforts to gather these funds to God's glory would occur through three distinct strategic initiatives: THE FOUNDATION, Church Organizers Foundation's (COF) CHARITY OF CHOICE GRANTING PROGRAM, and the MINISTRY INITIATIVES AND ADVANCEMENT FUND; and

RESOLVED, that the BCC appoint Rev. Dr. Martin E. Lee to fill the role of DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES to raise \$85 Million in Ten Years for the BCC in a graduated manner across five incremental phases described herein; and

RESOLVED, that the BCC appoint Rev. Dr. Martin E. Lee as ex-officio advisor to the BCC Executive Committee for reporting and monitoring progress toward campaign goals; and

RESOLVED, that the BCC Executive Committee form a Next Generation Advisory Board to oversee and monitor the implementation and administration of the proposed three Strategic Initiatives to help facilitate the "ADVANCING THE NEXT GENERATION!" campaign.



Rev. Dr. Martin Lee has served the LCMS Council of Presidents as a Transitional Specialist since 2010 and in pastoral ministry for 25 years. He is American born, raised in seven foster homes and reborn through Baptism. His natural birth was to an African-descended father who was, in turn, born to a coalminer who worked on a company town in Lemont Furnace, PA, and died young from black lung disease. His grandfather was born to a slave child (William Lee) of an unnamed bedwarmer (transaction recorded) for the Lee's of Virginia family on a plantation near Roanoke, VA. Martin's parents were one of the few biracial couples married in the 1960's. Martin has extensive experience in practical theology, congregational stewardship, and church finance, having served eleven congregations in five districts and having been trained in portfolio management and non-profits at UBS PaineWebber. Martin has served on several missions: Malawi, Beijing, Manila, and with LAMP. churchorganizers@gmail.com.

