



Here We Stand

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hair, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Psalm 71:17-18

HAVE QUESTIONS or need to meet to discuss participation? Would you like to have a presentation at your church? Call Ray or Linda at 888.225.2111.



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Here We Stand Student Aid

by Christopher M. Deneen

God provides in many ways. This has been made abundantly clear to me throughout my life. One of the ways God's provision was most impactful to me was through Michigan District financial aid during my years at Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA) and then also at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. (CSL). When I was first looking into colleges, the initial sticker shock was immense. I looked at the number for tuition and room and board and wondered, "How could I ever pay for that?"

Scholarships. Grants. All of these different ways to receive financial aid were quickly shown to me and I knew that was how I could pursue my dream of being a pastor and shepherding a flock of God's people. There were plenty of different scholarship applications, grants to fill out, and various ways to pay for college.

When I applied for other scholarships or grants, it always seemed like a long shot to receive them. One thing that I could always count on was the financial aid from the Michigan District, which was always a true blessing. It was very apparent that the District cared for those who were going into church work, and wanted to help out in any way they could.

I could never fully express how thankful I am for the support of the District through my studies at CUAA and CSL. Finances are always one of the top struggles for church workers. Studying to be a pastor entails 4 years of undergrad studies and then 4 years of seminary studies, and that meant that finances were always a concern in the back of my mind.

But I always had a little bit of relief from that worry because I knew the District was there. While I still left college and seminary with

some educational debt, the aid that I received from the District lowered that amount quite a bit, and became less of a stressor as I began my ministry.

The *Here We Stand* campaign is a great way to make sure that those who want to go into church work don't have to be scared away by the price tag of church work education, which can be daunting. The student aid from the District through an initiative like the *Here We Stand* campaign ensures that education for church work is not as worrisome and the price tag won't stand in the way of preparing to do the Lord's work.

As someone who benefited from Michigan District financial aid, I thank you for your continued support of the *Here We Stand* campaign.

Rev. Christopher M. Deneen is the Associate Pastor at Our Savior, Lansing. He is a 2017 graduate of Concordia University Ann Arbor and a 2021 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo.

We're now in the home stretch of the Here We Stand Campaign. There is still time to contribute to get your gift included in the final report at Convention in June 2022. Will you help us reach our \$10 million goal? www.herewestand.michigandistrict.org

Campaign Progress

Over \$9.1 million in gifts, pledges, and congregational goals to date.

Congregation Highlights

We would like to thank St. Paul, Buchanan; Grace, Canton; St. John, Cheboygan; St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth; Faith, Hawks; St. Paul, Milan; St. Paul, Millington; Zion, Mt. Pleasant; Journey, Oxford; and St. John, Rochester for their most recent gifts to the campaign.