

The “I Have a Dream” Fund:

Providing financial resources for those who long for an end to racism and an increase in understanding across cultural barriers, established by Margaret and John Payne

On August 28, 1963, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave the keynote address during a march for civil rights in Washington, D.C. He said “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” He elaborated on his dream in that speech and promised that its realization would bring God’s true freedom to us all. His refrain, “I have a dream today” still rings in the hearts of those who share it.

The “I Have a Dream” Fund shall support initiatives developed by individuals or congregations of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- 1) to teach about the many forms of racism that exist in human nature and society;
- 2) to deepen awareness of white privilege and the spiritual dimensions of racism
- 3) to encourage public advocacy for racial justice and to work toward economic equality for people of color;
- 4) to support ministries for children and youth that create intentional cross-cultural programming that nurtures an environment of equality in shared experience;
- 5) This fund shall provide financial support for new initiatives of anti-racism education and training, including long-term communities of support. It shall also support the development of initiatives that undercut racism by increasing cultural competency and encouraging the development of relationships that transcend racial barriers.

Additional information and granting process:

- A. Requests for a grant shall include a cover letter to describe the goal of the proposed initiative, a detailed description of the initiative which shall not exceed two pages, and a comprehensive budget. Preference will be given to proposals that request matching funds for an initiative that has other financial backing, and also for proposals that demonstrate a plan for ongoing sustainability.
- B. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive all proposals and vote on the recommendations.
- C. Proposals must be received by December 15 of each calendar year. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council will vote on the proposals by the end of that year.
- D. Only the interest of the Fund shall be available for annual grants. The principal or a portion of the principal may be utilized only by a special vote of the Synod Council at a time when a compelling argument is raised for its usage. In the event of the dissolution of the New England Synod, the monies of the Fund shall be given to a church body or non-profit organization whose goals are consistent with the purposes of the Fund.

NOTE all completed applications for grants should be sent to Synod House by email, attention of lwasilewski@nesynod.org or by mail, to the attention of Lyn Wasilewski, New England Synod, 20 Upland St., Worcester, MA 01607-1624, and they *must be received by December 15.*