

1% Support for Theological Education: June 26, 2013

None of the Episcopal Church seminaries receive monies from the General Convention budget and thereby must rely on the good will of the church members and other resources to provide the financial underpinning necessary to accomplish their mission. Over the last 20 years the General Convention has encouraged the Church to give generously to this important work through 1% giving (1% of net disposable budgeted income) to the seminaries of the Church.

I hope your congregation has made provision to fulfill the 1% asking and that individual members are encouraged to give to a seminary of the Episcopal Church. Churches can send their support directly to the seminaries (there is no reason to send the money through the Bishop's office).

Our most recent diocesan ordinand, the Rev. Leo Loyola, graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary, and he is now a Priest serving on the Windward side of Oahu. Ernesto "JaR" Pasalo will begin his second year at Virginia with the new term and Annalise Castro is heading to Virginia in August to begin studies on an M. Div. The Dean of Virginia, the Very Rev. Ian Markham, and a member of the faculty, the Rev. Barney Hawkins, are scheduled to lead our diocesan clergy retreat in September. Virginia has emerged for now, as the primary seminary with active connections to the Diocese. The address for Virginia is:

Virginia Theological Seminary
3737 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304
www.vts.edu

A postulant must attend a seminary with the Bishop's approval.

The seminary of our Province (VIII) is:

Church Divinity School of the Pacific
2451 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
www.cdsp.edu

As a Diocese, we have historic and Provincial ties to CDSP.

Again, I urge your personal support for theological education and for all congregations to strive to give the 1% in support of theological education. Churches can send their support directly to the seminaries (there is no reason to send the money through the Bishop's office).

I send my personal support to the seminaries from which I have degrees [General Theological Seminary (M. Div.) and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary (D. Min. in Preaching)], CDSP and Virginia (since that is where we have had and now have seminarians).

I am also collecting money to support a seminary of the Philippine Independent Church (Iglesia Filipina Independiente or IFI), Aglipay Central Theological Seminary in Uradanta City. The Episcopal Church is full communion partners with the IFI and many in our Diocese have historic ties to the IFI. I consider this an extension of support for theological education. If you would like to support the work of Aglipay Central Theological Seminary, please do send the money to me here at the office (checks can be made payable to "The Episcopal Church in Hawai'i" with a notation for the "IFI Seminary").

Also, remember that Theological Education Sunday (TES) is officially recognized on the first Sunday in February. It is a day parishioners set aside to pray and give for all laity and clergy whose ministry is Christian education, wherever that ministry happens - in the home, preschool programs, parishes, colleges, universities, and seminaries. Established in 1999 by the Episcopal Church, this Sunday on the church calendar is an occasion for all parishioners to focus on education as a key aspect of mission. I am sure any of the seminaries would welcome the opportunity to somehow be a part of your congregation's Theological Education Sunday program. Be sure to contact them early.

Theological education is important for the Church and there is still a place for strong residential programs. The support of the churches and individual Episcopalians is essential.

Mahalo,
+Bob

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick