



**Did you know.... That your Mission Support giving helps give seminary students full tuition assistance to United Lutheran Seminary right here in Pennsylvania!**

**How will you share the story with your congregation?**

What do you do when your partner of 18 plus years tells you that they want to go to seminary to be a pastor? You get married, quit your job, move to Pennsylvania, sell your home, and relocate – at least, that’s what we did!

Of course, it’s not quite as simple as that, and it wasn’t as quick as that. There were many conversations and considerations. How do you go from two full time careers, having a home in Michigan, family that is still there, and then uproot everything you know? It’s difficult, but when the Holy Spirit calls, you might be slow about following, but you still follow.

What I can tell you is that we didn’t expect to receive full tuition assistance that United Lutheran Seminary began offering in 2017. When we started this journey, we had hopes that my wife would be eligible for some assistance, but assumed we would need to make up the rest with student loans and use some of our retirement savings. We never imagined that ULS would offer full tuition assistance. It was truly life-changing for us. Because synods and congregations like you have been supporting the seminary in such an important way, you helped ensure that we did not incur deep financial debt as we followed this call into ministry. The easing of this financial burden allowed us to relocate to Pennsylvania, find new jobs, and immerse ourselves in the new journey more easily.

Pursuing a call into seminary and ministry can be very difficult as a second-career student, with all the upheavals and unexpected changes that brings. Change is never easy, but with the generous financial support we received, it made a lot of the difficult financial decisions a lot easier. That is something for which we both will be forever grateful!

*The tuition assistance made a real difference in helping to alleviate some of those worries and allowed Lisa Dubay and now the Reverend Jennifer Toburen to follow a call into ministry without the financial fears causing anxiety. Lisa was representing United Lutheran Seminary at the Share Fair during the Synod Assembly in June and we asked her to share her story. If you have a story to share, please contact Georgia Suranofsky at [georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com](mailto:georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com).*