

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHURCH PRESSES FORWARD

For the Sake of the Church endowment continues to move forward toward achieving \$200 million in gifts and pledges to financially reduce the cost of Lutheran students studying at one of the colleges/universities of the Concordia University System. Despite the economic downturn suffered in our nation the past year, the colleges/universities added more than \$1 million to their endowments.

The combined efforts of the colleges/universities have been blessed by God in many and important ways: 1) Total endowment on all campuses has grown from \$52 million in 1998 to \$192 million in 2009; 2) LCMS students on the campuses as a percentage of confirmands enrolled has increased from 3.5% in 1998 to 4.5% today; 3) Campus leadership has increased its awareness of the importance of developing endowments as a means to reduce the growing cost of education; 4) The number of active donors has increased at all campuses to support the ministry of Lutheran higher education; and 5) Total enrollment across the ten campuses grew from 13,820 in 1998 to 23,318 through 2008. In addition campuses were able to develop capital projects to enhance or replace facilities and initiate new academic programs.

General John Vessey, chairman of the National Cabinet, in a recent meeting at Concordia University in Austin, Texas, encouraged the presidents and development officers of the campuses to continue to press forward in their efforts to increase institutional endowments. The achievement of \$191 million and increased enrollment represents significant support from faithful donors who understand the importance of providing youthful leadership for the future of the church and our society.

The presidents of the Concordia University System colleges and universities, at the same meeting in Austin, Texas expressed their sincere thanks to the National Cabinet members for their leadership and support for this special ministry effort. What has been accomplished to date can only be understood as an achievement blessed by God for faithful service by devoted and dedicated people who are willing to give of their time in support of a special ministry effort for our church.