

## Grand Canyon Synod Women Scholarship Programs

Our scholarship programs are wonderful ways for women, especially our younger women (ages 18-45), to discover what the Women of the ELCA is all about. These women spend their time at our Convention/Gathering, Fall Retreat, our annual Gather Bible study event or perhaps even our Triennial Gathering learning about the programs and activities of the Women of the ELCA. They are expected to fully participate in the event they attend. More importantly, they make connections with women who are active and love our organization, in order that they can establish supportive relationships and become involved in the Women of the ELCA at their local level. Convention/gathering scholarship women will have an advisor at the event who will serve as a resource person. Time will be given for fellowship with friend and church acquaintances.

Our scholarship women are the future of our organization! We fund their scholarship from our gifts and fund raising activities, including Silent Auctions.

We have several scholarship opportunities. Some cover the cost of the registration, event meals and housing expenses. Others cover the cost of the registration and event meals only. Scholarship participants are required to fund the cost of their transportation unless it is generously provided by a conference or their local congregation.

Each scholarship has an associated application that must be completed and submitted by the deadline date. The number of scholarships are limited and may have a geographical consideration when determined. A member of the Grand Canyon Synod Women oversees the Scholarship application and selection process.

### **Biennial Convention/Gathering Scholarships:**

**Today's Katie Scholarship:** This is an opportunity for four (4) women, age 18-30, who have not attended a Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA convention/gathering. The scholarship covers the registration fee, including convention meals, and the hotel accommodations (double occupancy). Four young women are offered the scholarship based on the geographical areas of our synod: North (Colorado River and High Country); South (Sunrise and Santa Cruz); East (Fiesta, Northeast Valley and Rio Salado) and West (Cactus and Capital). Recipients are chosen based on their leadership potential and their participation in their church and community. These four scholarships are funded by the Grand Canyon Synod Women's Organization through its budgeting process.

**June Klar Scholarship:** This scholarship was established to honor June Klar, the first president of the Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA. She had a passion for helping young women and trying to promote their involvement in the Women of the ELCA. This scholarship is offered to one (1) (or two, depending on funds availability) young woman who is under the age of 40, is active in her church and community and has never before attended a Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA convention/gathering. The scholarship covers the registration fee, including event meals, and the hotel accommodations (double occupancy) and is funded by the Grand Canyon Synod Women's Organization through its budgeting process and through gifts to the June Klar scholarship fund.

**Conference Scholarship:** Each of the nine (9) conferences within our Grand Canyon Synod may offer a scholarship to one (1) or more women within their conference. These scholarships are intended to

encourage more women to attend and participate in our convention/gathering, especially women attending for the first time. Each scholarship covers the cost of registration and event meals. Conferences should plan for this expense in their budgeting planning.

**Conference Diversity Scholarship:** This scholarship was adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA and is offered to women of color and/or whose primary language is other than English. Scholarships may be offered by our nine conferences. This scholarship is intended to encourage more women of color and/or whose primary language is other than English to attend the annual convention/gathering. Each scholarship covers the cost of registration and event meals. Conferences should plan for this expense in their budget planning.

#### **Grand Canyon Synod Women Event Scholarships:**

These scholarships are intended to encourage women to attend our events for the first time, and may be need based. The Administrative Board of the Grand Canyon Women may annually adjust the number of scholarships offered, based on monies available. The budgeting process and special fundraising activities of the Grand Canyon Synod Women, such as Silent Auctions or sales of merchandise, such as t-shirts, provide financial support for event scholarships.

**Retreat Scholarships:** Each synod-wide Retreat held by the Grand Canyon Synod Women will offer two (2) scholarships to cover the cost of registration and event meals. Preference will be given to young women (ages 18-45), women of color and/or whose primary language is other than English, and women who have never attended one of our Retreats. These scholarships do not cover Retreat housing or travel expenses.

**Gather Bible Study Scholarships:** This event is held annually to introduce and promote the Winter Bible study found in the Gather magazine. The Grand Canyon Synod Women will offer two (2) scholarships to cover the cost of registration, including lunch. Preference will be given to women who have never attended one of our Gather Bible Study events.

**Triennial Gathering Scholarships:** This scholarship was established in 2014 by the Administrative Board of the Grand Canyon Women to encourage first time attendance at the Women of the ELCA's Triennial Gathering held every three years. The scholarship fund of \$1500 will be divided equally between three (3) recipients to be used for Triennial expenses at their discretion. The Grand Canyon Synod Women's board may purchase Triennial registrations in advance, at a reduced fee, as part of the scholarship amount. Following attendance, the applicants will be required to submit a report of their experience to the Grand Canyon Synod Women's board at their next board meeting. If the applicant is unable to attend the Triennial Gathering, it is expected she will refund the registration fee in full, including the registration fee.

**Lea Begay Mission and Outreach Scholarships:** To honor the legacy of Lea Begay and her work with the Navajo Lutheran Mission, the Grand Canyon Synod Women's board will set aside designated monies to be used to encourage attendance for women in congregations who are a mission focus of our synod women. These events could be synod-wide or conference events-

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