



October 30, 2025

Dear ECC Faith Community,

To stimulate the engagement of younger members of the ECC in our local communities and in the national church, the Mary Magdalene Society has set aside \$4000 to bring youth to the 2026 Synod in Minnesota. It is offering 8 or more grants up to \$500 each. The recipients may use the money for the synod registration fee, housing, food, and/or transportation expenses. For this grant, youth and young adults will be understood as a person between 16 and 25 years of age, with 30 years as a cap.

Individual faith communities (on the signature of the Parish Council Chair, Pastor or appropriate leadership team head) must initiate the application process after selecting potential recipients. Up to two recipients may be identified in each faith community. In addition to providing their names, the application should describe how the participation of these young adults in Synod will benefit the community. Because recipients will be asked to gather at least one time at Synod and share their experiences with ECC media on site and afterwards, the potential recipients are asked to acknowledge their interest and agreement on the application form.

The grant application should specify the amount requested and affirm the community's commitment to a funding match. If the total requests exceed \$4000, priority will be given to those applications guaranteeing a full match and accompanied by a thoughtful statement of how the recipient's participation in Synod will benefit the faith community.

Applications are due by March 22, 2026. If funds remain after the initial deadline, late applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Awards will be released to the faith community, who will assume responsibility for the pledged match and the appropriate distribution of the MMS award to the designated young adult(s).

A post-Synod report will be requested to document the use of the dispersed funds and to evaluate the program's success. This is an experimental program.

Sincerely,

The Mary Magdalene Society Advisory Board