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December 2017

Dear churches of the Iowa Conference,

Enclosed you will find the materials for the **Funding Future Leadership** special offering. The recommended date for taking this offering is **Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup>**. Included in this package you should have:

- Templates for offering envelopes and pew cards
- Two bulletin inserts
- A sample newsletter article
- 8 1/2x11 Flier and 11x17 Flier

In addition, a four-minute video that introduces the offering can be found on the Iowa Conference Website, located at: <http://www.ucciaconf.org/resources/scholarship-funding-future-leadership>. This video can be shown during worship, church council meetings, or other gatherings. If you are in need of a DVD copy of the video please contact the conference office.

To help guide the conversation with your church about **Funding Future Leadership**, I've answered some of the more frequent questions about this offering:

**How is this different than the CUE offering?** The CUE (Chicago United and Eden) offering goes to directly supporting our Midwest UCC seminaries, whereas Funding Future Leadership goes to providing direct support to members-in-discernment from Iowa who are in seminary. Funding Future Leadership addresses the concern that currently there is no direct scholarship aid available at the conference level for our seminary students. It is important that we support both our seminaries and our students.

**Does the offering need to be taken on Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup>?** No, but it's highly recommended to have it as close to January 21<sup>st</sup> as possible. We will be sending out applications for scholarship aid in early spring, and we need to know a total of how much money we have to give out.

**We took the offering, now where do we send the money?** Please send it to the Iowa Conference office. All money needs to be turned in by **March 9<sup>th</sup>** at the latest.

**How is the money divided up?** A committee will assign scholarship awards. We will work to make sure those who have financial need receive more aid, but we hope we have enough funds available so everyone receives something.

If you have any questions regarding this offering, please be in contact with Jo Ordway in the conference office by calling at 515.277.6369. Jo will either be able to answer your question or get you in contact with the right person.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Owens', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Rev. Charles Owens  
Pastor at Osage United Church of Christ  
Chairperson of Funding Future Leadership

**Rich Pleva**, *Conference Minister*  
*Associate Conference Ministers:*  
**Jonna Jensen**  
**Brigit Stevens**