

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND INVITATION**

“CPE is the best preparation for ministry,” is the common response of the CPE participants. Seminary students often say, “CPE helped me to do ministry more than any other seminary course.”

Clinical Pastoral Education is a graduate level process of adult, experiential learning. From pastoral formation and reflection to pastoral competence, the action/reflection model of learning prepares people to be conscious, effective pastoral care givers. Often required by denominations before ordination and required by health care systems for chaplaincy positions, CPE is at the core of pastoral preparation and discernment of a calling.

CPE is often greatly funded by hospitals as students do clinical work at the hospital giving ‘free labor’ which support the spiritual care department, patients, and staff. This model also involves the student being able to live near the hospital to complete both the educational and clinical aspects of CPE. With financial constraints on medical systems, spiritual care training is less available than has been historically true.

This is where the Ecumenical Institute has a profound and much needed place in pastoral care training. The Ecumenical Institute is a ‘stand-alone’ CPE center. It is not dependent on the cycles of health care funding, because you, the donors to Ecumenical Institute, support the ministry. Ecumenical Institute allows students to do clinical work in hospitals, parishes, nursing homes, and social service institutions. With an online option for learning, students can complete the education and clinical work where they live.

The Board of Ecumenical Institute has worked to fulfill its historic mission given by Fr. Gene Sitzmann to provide pastoral training in northwest Iowa. By setting tuition at a reasonable cost and raising funds through donations, EI is prepared to continue meeting its mission.

How can you participate in encouraging trained, effective pastoral care?

You are invited to donate to Ecumenical Institute’s Scholarship Fund. These funds will support students with full or partial scholarships. While some students are supported by their home church or denomination, others are in places where this support is limited. Those students could be greatly helped by a scholarship. Current tuition for one unit of CPE at EI is \$2200.00. Helping a student is a personal gift as well as support for the ministry of pastoral care wherever that student is serving.

Gifts to the Scholarship Fund will go entirely to support students gain pastoral care training. Please consider how you might participate.