

STUDENT AID OFFERING

JUNE 12, 2022

What is the Student Aid Offering? Every year generous people like you give to help offset the cost of educating our pastors and ministers. As you consider the possibility of sending a gift this year, we'd like to introduce you to one of our EC pastors who is a current student.



Hi there. My name is Zach Van Dyke. I am the pastor at Calvary EC Church in Hooppole, Illinois. My wife, Kelsey, and I, have been there with our three kids for about three years now. In that time, we've been incredibly blessed to get more and more involved with the EC family as a whole. It truly feels like the place we had been looking for. Our arrival within the denomination was through some rocky terrain, but our landing has been smooth. Part of that journey was working quickly to get a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion (my major was Christian Ministry). I didn't always manage my time well, spending more time physically with my family than I did being present with them. As a teenager, I felt the unmistakable call to ministry that was as though God had grabbed me by the shirt and changed the direction I was heading. But I immediately refused because going back to school felt like too much. Fast forward several years, and I finally answered and went to school, but felt as though I needed to do so in a hurry. As a result, I did school full-time while working nearly 60 hours a week, being a husband, father, and youth pastor. It was exhausting.

**YOUR INVESTMENT IS MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN GOD'S KINGDOM!**



So, the idea of getting my Master of Divinity degree was worrisome because I didn't (couldn't) put my family through that again. Fortunately, our denomination understands the importance of the pastor's family. My wife, two daughters, and son need to be a priority for me. I was introduced to the Kairos Project by the EC Ministerial Development Community, and the rest is, as they say, history. Attending Sioux Falls Seminary through the Kairos Project made it possible for me to have a good balance between family and furthering my knowledge of, and relationship with, God. That is one of the best things about this; while it could be seen as simply checking a box, the point of the degree program is not meeting a set requirement, but further cementing my walk with Christ while learning how to engage with others in that walk. It is undoubtedly something God has brought me to, and I trust that with Him in it, it will bear much fruit. The beautiful thing with the Kairos Project is that it is able to work into my schedule, so I don't have to upend my life or my family's life to get this education. It will still be a challenge, but with the support of my family, including my church family, I know it is possible. The journey is sure to be a long one, but it is one I am going to be able to enjoy and engage with more fully than I have previously been able.

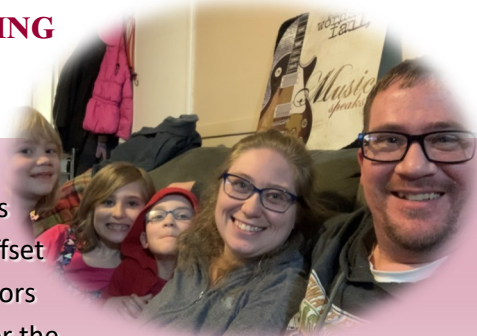


Your investment in the lives of our EC seminary students like Zach is making a difference in God's Kingdom, both in the individual lives of our pastors and their families, as well as in the congregations and communities where they serve. So would you please consider how you might give sacrificially to the Student Aid Offering this year? Thank you, The EC Student Aid Team

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