

A NEW NARRATIVE ABOUT PASTORS AND MONEY

We will not dwell in sadness or bewilderment about
the current state of pastor's financial acumen and indebtedness.

We will face the common challenge before us.

We will no longer tolerate a culture of shame and blame.

We will live into a culture of mutual accountability.

We will not blame young clergy for their indebtedness.

**We will work as a unified connection to see that seminary
is truly affordable and there is relief from current debt.**

We will not blame seminaries for failing to teach financial administration.

**We will partner with seminaries and pastoral education processes
to equip pastors for the financial responsibilities of ministry.**

We will not allow clergy to say "I don't do that"
in reference to financial administration.

**We will cultivate healthy, mutual relationships between clergy
and laity to assure the financial stability of the congregation.**

We will not blame district superintendents for their focus
on payment of apportionments and financial sustainability.

**We will insist bishop's and superintendent's stance toward clergy
begins in servanthood ("How can we help you learn?")
firmly rooted in accountability ("How can we work together
to attain this goal?")**

We will not propose solutions so complex that no one understands them.

**We will refine our solutions and strategies until they are understood
and easily integrated into our system.**

We will not allow a bill-paying, dues-paying mindset
to prevail in our churches.

**We will embrace the stance that mature disciples are radically
generous, and that generosity is a key to mature discipleship.**

We will not allow clergy to pretend their personal financial narrative
is disconnected from that of their congregation, nor to pretend
the congregation's financial narrative is disconnected from the world.

**We will challenge consumerism in all its forms to create
more space to celebrate joyful generosity.**

Created by John Thornburg, facilitator, Based on Stakeholder's Input, October 2017