



## Taking Care of Tomorrow's Church TODAY!

In towns across the country, in churches just like yours, there are pulpits waiting for Sunday. During weekly worship something strange, wonderful, and counter-cultural will take place. From these pulpits, Good News will be proclaimed. Week by week, year by year, century by century, Good News of great joy will be shared with an ever-changing congregation and with each individual person facing a unique life of blessing and challenge.



Among the hearers there is a special group: the next generation of preachers who will answer the call to listen for God's Spirit and share Good News to a world bombarded from every direction by sources of bad news. You might think that your church is too small to be nurturing a leader. The rural congregation of 20 that nurtured me certainly did. But wherever the Gospel is heard, there will be those who feel the call to ministry.

It is a long and arduous process to answer the call. There are years of schooling. There are personal and financial sacrifices. It's my experience that most aspiring ministers need a great chorus of witnesses to encourage and help them along the way. If someone in your community is sensing the call, please take the time to pray for them and encourage them. And, if you are looking for a way to encourage and support aspiring church leaders, consider contributing to Funding Future Leadership, an initiative to help support ministry students with scholarships to offset the considerable costs of theological education. Even a little bit of help will add your voice to the chorus of encouragers that will ensure the next generation of disciples will hear Good News. I believe wholeheartedly that pulpits will be filled. I believe that the church has a bright future. And I believe that even a small gift can make a big difference in making a better future possible.

~ Rev. Alexander Kindred Muscatine, Iowa



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