

* **Your project’s name and key objectives**

Title: The Abundant Life

Objectives:

* research student educational indebtedness (SEI) impact on ministry
* increase financial education & coaching already in place at Gettysburg Seminary
* invite large congregations into solutions for SEI
* research competency-based education (CBE) for curriculum
* **The most significant activities of your project to date**

Senior Pastors from large congregations will have a retreat at Gettysburg Seminary on March 23-24, 2014, and emerge into an advisory conversation under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Glenn Ludwig, Vice President of Seminary Advancement. The selected pastors will provide input to the overall discernment about SEI, improved financial practices for emerging leaders, and seminary education today. Significant data gathering has already taken place in the design of a Certificate Course to offer Training for Senior Pastors of Larger Congregations. An advisory committee will soon finish the design of that Course.

Gettysburg Seminary and ELCA Region 8 engaged in social research in 2012-2013, under the direction of Educational Development Consultants, Inc., to compile a current menu of competencies that describe ELCA ordained ministry. In the opening months of the grant time period (2014-16), key work has been investigation of resources available and existing CBE programs at universities. A summary of early learnings is at <https://vimeo.com/86902905>.

* **Two or three of the most important resources you have discovered or produced**

Designing Higher Ed at <http://designinghighered.com/>

We produced a 20-minute introduction to CBE for ELCA Theological Education available at <https://vimeo.com/86902905>

* **Contact information for the project director.**

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