What is the “Pioneering the Future” campaign offering?

MidAmerica Nazarene University’s “Pioneering the Future” campaign is a region-wide initiative among Nazarene churches to build a scholarship endowment for students from your district and strengthen the relationship between MNU and local churches.

The campaign will culminate with a special offering during the month of **October**. (We recognize that individual church calendars vary, and we want to offer you flexibility to conduct the offering on the Sunday in October or the fall that works best for your church.)

The following resources are available to assist your church in promoting and collecting your district’s endowment offering:

### Included in August 31 mailing to churches

- **New “Pioneering the Future” campaign video** on DVD to be shown twice – during a Sunday morning service in September AND as part of the special offering presentation in October
- **Postage-paid offering envelopes** for use on the day of the offering

### Available for download at www.mnu.edu-pioneering-the-future

- **Talking points** that might be useful in preparing comments or a sermon related to the offering presentation.
- **Pioneering the Future PowerPoint slide** for use in the month of September and on the date of your offering in October.
- **Bulletin and newsletter inserts** in electronic format and a template for printing. Please include these in your bulletins and newsletters during September or in the weeks just before the offering in October.

Additionally, this document of frequently asked questions (FAQs) provides details and answers questions about the district scholarship endowment and this offering.

**How will the district scholarships be awarded?**

Scholarship assistance will be made available to Nazarene students from your district. Awards will be based on financial need as determined by the Director of Student Financial Services in accordance with established University guidelines.

**What is an endowment?**

Like many universities, the MNU Foundation manages an endowment that funds a portion of the operating requirements of the institution, including scholarships.

In lay terms, gifts to an endowment are invested, and a portion of the income or gain on the investment is distributed in the form of a scholarship. Thus, a scholarship endowment provides a perpetual source of support for student scholarships.

Gifts and commitments to this offering will be placed in a restricted endowment and the funds will be used **solely for scholarships for students from your district**.

With ongoing support from your district, it will continue to grow year after year.
Why does MNU need a special offering?

Founded in 1966, MNU is still a relatively young university and as such, a significant portion of the resources given to MNU during its first 46 years have been directed toward the development of campus facilities. Many older, more established schools have built significant endowments which provide a consistent and additional base of financial support, often in the form of funded scholarships.

The past three years have been particularly challenging from a financial standpoint for MNU, and as we move toward a renewed position of strength, it’s vital that we increase our focus on endowment support and strengthen the ties between MNU and the local church.

How does this offering differ from our annual educational budget?

The “Pioneering the Future” offering is an opportunity for individuals within your church to give an extra measure of support in the form of a scholarship endowment for your district’s students. This offering is above and beyond your local church educational budget allocations for MNU.

In the past, MNU has offered congregations within the local church an opportunity to donate toward building campaigns, such as the fundraising initiative for MNU’s Bell Cultural Event Center six years ago. However, the gifts and commitments for this particular offering will benefit students exclusively from your district. Because it is an endowment, it can grow and continue to provide support in perpetuity!

How will our church treasurer handle the recurring gift commitments and donations received in the offering?

The postage-paid offering envelopes you have received with this mailing should be distributed during the morning worship service(s) of your special offering in October. Individuals should make donation checks payable to MNU, as indicated on the offering envelope. Your church treasurer should simply drop completed envelopes in the mail to be sent directly back to MNU. This also provides donors the opportunity to send in their donations later if more time is needed to pray about and discuss the gift.

What happens to the donations or recurring gift commitments given?

All donations will be processed and tracked by MNU’s Office of University Advancement. The gifts will be credited to your district’s scholarship endowment at the MidAmerica Nazarene University Foundation. The principal will be invested by the Foundation, and the income generated will fund scholarships to students exclusively from your district.

Why should our church support this offering?

Simply put, gifts and commitments to this offering help students from your district exclusively. MidAmerica Nazarene University exists to educate and transform students from your church for a life of service to their community, the church and the world. These scholarships will help ensure that
more students from your district can experience a transforming Christian education.

Many pastors and laypersons in the church have asked, “How can we help during these difficult financial challenges?” This initiative is a tangible way for Nazarene congregations from across the region to jointly and simultaneously pull together in support of MNU.

Is this a one-time offering?
It is anticipated that “Pioneering the Future” will become an annual offering that enables your district’s endowment to continue to grow over time.

Will our church be notified of how much was given toward the district endowment?
Yes, as long as the donor fills in the name of their church on the donation envelope. This information will allow us to track the results of the offering by church and by district. MNU will send a report to your church after the conclusion of the campaign this fall.

What is MNU doing to strengthen its ties with the local churches on our district?
MNU is making improvements in several aspects of its church relations efforts. Perhaps the most visible is the addition of Rev. Kevin Borger, assistant to the president for church relations. In addition to his travels to local churches, assemblies, camps and retreats, Kevin is directing MNU’s SERVE teams, ramping up communication between MNU and the churches, and lining up additional opportunities for MNU to assist and benefit pastors, just to name a few.