Dear ESR Students,

Welcome to ESR! As the new school year begins, I want to share with you an important opportunity to gain critical financial information as well receive up to $500 in matching funds. Please read this completely.

Financial Acumen workshops
If you borrow money from the federal government to help finance your education, you either have already completed or will need to complete Jonelle Ellis’ sessions on student debt and borrowing. In addition, there is another opportunity that is required if you receive financial aid from ESR (the opportunity is open to all ESR students but required if you receive scholarship or need based aid.).

The opportunity?? A set of three Saturday workshops which grew out of ESR’s response to a Lilly Endowment initiative to address the issue of financial stress facing seminary students and graduates. They are designed to encourage you to think about your own attitudes and access to money, how debt can consume your financial resources, and how to begin to think strategically about your own approach to financial stability. It will ultimately provide an opportunity to work on your own financial situation with a goal of understanding your priorities and, to the degree you are willing, to develop a financial strategy that works for you. This is a great opportunity to earn a $500 matching grant and necessary to ensure your financial aid from ESR.

Workshop Schedule:

- September 11    Making Friends with Money
- September 18    Making Acquaintance with your Options
- October 9       Making a Plan You Can Live with

These workshops will be held in person in the DeCou classroom and via Zoom. To make allowance for multiple time zones, these workshops will occur from 1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

A $500 matching grant is available to any ESR student who completes these seminars; funds must be matched and invested for the student’s retirement. Please reserve your place by contacting the Dean’s Assistant at (765) 983-1687 no later than Thursday, September 9. For those with conflicts, you must contact the Assistant to the Dean to make arrangements to fulfill this requirement.

Workshops will be facilitated by ESR Dean Emeritus Jay Marshall who, among other things, is a Certified Financial Planner. I am excited to have the opportunity for you to learn from Jay. This will be a worthwhile investment of your time and attention.

Jim Higginbotham
Acting Dean
JH/mb