



**\*Form works best on a computer, not a tablet.\***

## **Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church Board of Ordained Ministry Ministerial Education Fund Application**

Through the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) and other generous gifts, financial assistance is available for persons who are pursuing licensing or ordination. This fund is available to any certified candidate for ministry from the Florida Conference who are enrolled at a University Senate approved seminary and are completing courses for credit towards a specific degree or educational program as indicated. Find list of approved seminaries here: <https://www.gbhem.org/students/seminary/list-of-approved-seminaries/>

For persons on an Elder track, coursework must be for a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree or for completion of Advanced Course of Study (ACOS) requirements (see Book of Discipline ¶1335 (3) (c) and (3) (d)) from a University Senate Approved Seminary.

For persons on a Deacon track, coursework must be for a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, or another theological master's degree that includes the Basic Graduate Studies (such as a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) or a Masters of Pastoral Counseling) or for the completion of the Basic Graduate Theological Studies as a non-degree student if taken at a University Senate Approved Seminary – depending on the deacon educational track (see ¶1330.3 (b) or .3(c)). Master's degrees in other specialty areas such as Marriage and Family Counseling, an MBA, Nursing, etc. are **not** eligible for Ministerial Education Funds.

One exception is the board may provide seminary scholarships for persons who are taking courses for seminary credit beyond a basic seminary degree to fulfill denominational or conference requirements for ordination. This includes OE and OF clergy working on educational requirements for a transfer request.

An additional exception is, the Adventurers Leadership Academy (formally the Pioneer Leadership Academy) which equips lay, licensed, and ordained adventurers to cultivate Fresh Expressions of Church and other forms of innovative ministry in their unique contexts throughout the Florida Conference. Ministerial Education Funds will be provided for Florida Clergy or certified candidates for ministry and can be requested for a total amount of \$1250 per clergy applicant. Upon completion, United Theological Seminary will confer a Certificate in Fresh Expressions and Adventurer Ministry and 8.0 CEUs (continuing education units).

The purpose of the Ministerial Education Fund is to assist in providing adequately trained ministers for our churches by:

- Relieving some of the pressure of limited means, where such pressure may well prevent a ministerial candidate from obtaining the necessary education.
- Reducing the necessity for too much employment while in school, thus allowing more time for study.
- Reducing the overall educational debt burden for students

Funding is \$200 per credit hour with a maximum of \$600 for a 3 credit or more course. Grants may be awarded for up to \$600 per course each semester, with no maximum number of courses. This includes Spring, Summer, Fall, and J-Terms.

It is hoped that those receiving these funds will serve in the Florida Conference. If, for some reason, a person does not serve in the Florida Conference, or a conference in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, financial repayment may be required.

### **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Read the application in full before completing it.
2. Applications must be completed for each new semester. Disbursements are made on a semester basis for Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters or for quarterly terms, if applicable.
3. Complete your portion of the application in detail. There is a reason for each question in this application. Failure



Hours enrolled this semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours completed as of (date): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of degree, if completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

How many of the required 27 credits of Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS) courses per Book of Discipline Paragraph 324.4, plus a Preaching course required for Elders in Florida, have you completed?

Of the 27 credits of Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS) courses per Book of Discipline Paragraph 324.4, plus a Preaching course required for Elders in Florida, which ones are you planning to take this coming semester?

**MINISTERIAL RELATION**

*Certified Candidates for Ordained Ministry (only certified candidates are eligible for funds)*

Are you currently a certified as a candidate for the ministry:  Yes  No

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Certified: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of most recent Recertification (required annually): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to apply for a new clergy status with the Florida Annual Conference in the coming year?

Yes  No  Uncertain If yes, what status? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be seeking an appointment with the Florida Annual Conference upon completion of your education?

Yes  No  Uncertain

Will you be seeking an appointment with the Florida Annual Conference in the coming Conference year?

Yes  No  Uncertain

Have you advised your District Superintendent of your plans in writing?  Yes  No

If not, what form of Christian ministry do you plan to enter and/or where do you expect to serve?

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION**

*The District Superintendent should review the entire application and provide any additional information that may be relevant to this application.*

Do your records indicate that this person is a certified candidate for ministry?  Yes  No

If yes,  Elder Track  Deacon Track

Signature of District Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| I hear by authorize the   |
| (Name of University Senate Approved Seminary)   |
| To release the information in the following sections (School Recommendation and Student Financial Aid Office Recommendation) to the Florida Conference Board of Ordained Ministry of The United Methodist Church. |
| (Signature of Student/Date)   |

**SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION**

*This and the following section are to be completed by the applicant's academic institution.*

Student's classification as of (date):  First  Second  Third  Fourth year  Other Do

you expect this student to be full time this semester?  Yes  No

How many credit hours are required for Full-Time status? \_\_\_\_\_

For how many credit hours is this student enrolled for this semester? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the student's cumulative grade point average?

Additional Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT FINANCIAL AID OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION**

Has this student met their college/seminary obligations satisfactorily to date?  Yes  No

What financial assistance will the school provide to the student? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Financial Aid Official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_