

CONSENT CALENDAR AR 02

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: SCHOLARSHIP POLICIES, BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY, OREGON-IDAHO**
2 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

3 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: CLAY ANDREW**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 168 NE 8th AVE., HILLSBORO, OREGON, 97124**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: CLAY@HILLSBOROUMC.ORG**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-640-1775**

8
9 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: AS AMENDED, YELLOW; YES 24, NO 0,**
10 **ABSTAIN 0**

11
12
13 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

14 Adopt the following as the Scholarship Policy for the Oregon-Idaho Conference:

15
16 **Scholarship Policies**

17 **Board of Ordained Ministry**

18 **Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**

19
20 Continuing education for pastoral leaders is a key component for fruitful ministry and for
21 congregational vitality. The Ministerial Education Fund provides scholarship support for pastoral
22 leaders who pursue continuing education to develop their skills and knowledge to meet the evolving
23 needs of the leadership and ministry in the United Methodist Church.

24
25 **A. Qualifications for Applicants**

26 I. Oregon-Idaho Conference Members in full connection, provisional members, Diaconal Ministers,
27 or associate members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who are under appointment may
28 apply for financial assistance for continuing education. [see section D]

29
30 Members in full connection and associate members may apply for MEF funds for study/travel leave
31 or renewal leave. [see section E]

32
33 Certified licensing school candidates and Licensed Local Pastors may also apply for financial
34 assistance for continuing education, including the Ministerial Course of Study. Lay persons assigned
35 to a church or charge as a pastoral leader may receive MEF financial aid. [see Section F]

36
37 II. Certified candidates for ministry who have been accepted by a University Senate approved
38 seminary for work toward an M.Div., or other equivalent seminary degree, or who are currently
39 enrolled in such a program, or who are completing requirements for ordination may apply for MEF
40 financial aid. [see section F]

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1 III. Scholarship assistance is available to those from outside our denomination who must complete
2 the educational “Methodist Requirements” prior to joining our conference. [see section F]

4 **B. Application Process for MEF Scholarships**

5 I. Applicants may submit MEF Scholarship requests to the Scholarship Officer of the Board of
6 Ordained Ministry.

7 Scholarship Officer:

8 Name

9 Mailing address

10 Email address

11
12 II. Scholarship requests may be sent as a Word document email attachment or as a letter.

13
14 III. Scholarship requests for a continuing education event should include date(s), costs and other
15 pertinent information.

16
17 IV. A separate scholarship request must be sent for each continuing education event.

18
19 V. Scholarship requests must be submitted within 90 days of before the conclusion of the event.

20
21 VI. The Scholarship Officer will act on scholarship requests if they meet the guidelines of this MEF
22 policy. The Scholarship Officer may pass a scholarship request on to either the Executive Committee
23 of the Board of Ordained Ministry or to the entire Board of Ordained Ministry for action.

24
25 VII. The Scholarship Officer will submit regular (at least three per year) reports of scholarship
26 requests and grants made to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

27 28 **C. Quadrennial Limits**

29 I. MEF funding for continuing education shall be limited to \$2800 per person per quadrennium.
30 Recipients whose annual professional expense allowance is less than \$2000 shall be limited to \$3200
31 per person per quadrennium. These limits apply to the cumulative total of financial assistance in
32 sections D I-VII below. Special ‘block grants’ (section D VIII) will not normally apply to the MEF
33 quadrennial limit.

34 35 **D. Financial Aid for Continuing Education**

36 I. Each year, the Board of Ordained Ministry, in consultation with the Cabinet and the Continuing
37 Education Task Force, will approve a list of continuing education events that align with the Board’s
38 goal of fostering excellence in ministry. The list of these educational events shall be posted on the
39 Board of Ordained Ministry website and shall maintained by the Scholarship Officer.

40 Any person who is qualified to receive MEF funding in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference may
41 request that the Board of Ordained Ministry add a continuing education event to its approved list.

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1 The Board will approve the request if it aligns with the Board's goal of fostering excellence in ministry
2 and will be broadly appealing and appropriate to pastoral leaders in the Conference. Requests for
3 such additions shall be made through the Scholarship Officer in writing or by a Word document
4 attached to an email.

5
6 II. Pastoral leaders who attend one of these approved events may receive:

7 up to \$350 for an event of 1-4 days duration

8 up to \$600 for an event of 5+ days duration

9 an additional \$250 if travel to the event (one-way) exceeds 300 miles

10
11 III. Pastoral leaders who have a particular need for continuing education that is not on the Board of
12 Ordained Ministry list may apply for MEF financial assistance and may submit a recommendation
13 from his or her District Superintendent supporting the application. In these cases the pastoral leader
14 may receive:

15 up to \$350 for an event of 1-4 days duration

16 up to \$600 for an event of 5+ days duration

17 an additional \$250 if travel to the event (one-way) exceeds 300 miles

18
19
20 IV. Pastoral leaders who attend other programs of continuing education may receive:

21 up to \$200 for an event of 1-4 day duration

22 up to \$400 for an event of 5+ days duration

23 an additional \$250 for travel over 300 miles

24
25 V. Pastoral leaders who participate in intensive course work equivalent at least to university-level
26 credited work (e.g., language development classes) may receive up to \$500 with District
27 Superintendent approval.

28
29 VI. Pastoral leaders attending intensive, multiple-year programs (e.g., Spiritual Formation Academy)
30 may receive to \$1500 per year.

31
32 VII. Pastoral leaders who participate in advanced seminary degree work (beyond M.Div or
33 equivalent) may be provided on an annual basis, up to \$1500 per year, provided the recipient is
34 returning to an approved appointment upon completion.

35
36 VIII. The Board of Ordained Ministry may approve special 'block grants' for certain events that seem
37 especially useful or vital. These grants may be made to the attendees of the event or to the
38 sponsors/hosts of the event itself. The limit for these block grants shall be \$500 per attendee or
39 \$2500 for event sponsors/hosts but may not exceed 50% of event's total cost.)

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1 E. Financial Aid for Study/Travel Leave or Renewal Leave

2 I. Financial aid is available for study/travel aid which is intended to benefit the clergy person's
3 ministry. Applicants must be ordained clergy who have been a member in full connection for six (6)
4 years or an associate member of the annual conference for eight (8) years. Study/travel leave may be
5 up to three (3) months long, but leave beyond two months will be considered as vacation.

6 The full salary of the candidate for the three-month period shall be paid by the local church or
7 institution being served. MEF funds shall provide the candidate a stipend for tuition or travel in the
8 amount of up to \$1,250. MEF funds may also pay the cost of supplying an interim minister in the
9 clergy person's absence, up to \$1250 per month for two months, based on the local need. The third
10 month is considered vacation and the responsibility of the local church. The selection of an interim
11 minister and housing is the responsibility of the clergy person, local congregation and the District
12 Superintendent. (The Board of Ordained Ministry has guidelines for the use of the parsonage or the
13 pastor's own home.)

14
15 To apply for financial assistance for study/travel leave:

16 The applicant should make a written application to BOM through its Scholarship Officer,
17 which includes a description of the study or travel program and your goals.

18 The applicant should obtain written approval of both the Cabinet (through the applicant's
19 District Superintendent) and the local church through action by the Church Council (or equivalent).

20 The education and renewal value of the programs and years of service in the Oregon- Idaho
21 Annual Conference will be considered in approving applications. Higher priority will be given to
22 applicants who have not previously received MEF assistance.

23
24 II. Through a special gift from the Oregon-Idaho Conference Board of Pensions, clergy persons may
25 apply for financial assistance for renewal leave. Renewal leave is intended to foster clergy well-being
26 and longevity in ministry. Applicants must be ordained clergy who have been a member in full
27 connection for six (6) years or an associate member of the annual conference for eight (8) years.

28
29 The financial assistance for renewal leave may be used to support the applicant's travel expenses or
30 the expenses of the church for supplying interim pastoral leadership. The maximum grant for leave is
31 \$1,000, except in extenuating circumstances of leave longer than one month, and then only at the
32 request of the District Superintendent. Unlike the study/travel leave grants, there is not an
33 expectation of continuing education/professional development being part of this leave. This is
34 intended to facilitate and support clergy well-being.

35
36 To apply for financial assistance for renewal leave:

37 Applicants should send written application, including plans for the leave and how the funds
38 would be used, to the MEF Scholarship Officer.

39 The applicant's District Superintendent must also make written recommendation, including
40 reasons why renewal leave is needed.

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1 F. Theological Students

2 I. For Full Time Study – This aid shall not exceed a maximum of \$4500 to any applicant or more than
3 \$1500 in one academic year. It may be granted in one, two or three academic year increments.
4 Grants are not made for study beyond the basic seminary degree.

5
6 II. For Less than Full Time Study – Certified candidates for ministry who have been accepted by a
7 University Senate approved seminary, but are/will be engaged in study less than full time may apply
8 for MEF financial assistance. Aid shall be pro-rated with up to \$500 available for each nine semester
9 units taken. Total scholarship eligibility during less than full time study shall be \$3000.

10
11 For both full time and less than full time study the applicant shall

12 Be a certified candidate for ministry of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

13 Complete and submit an application form and personal financial statement provided by the
14 BOM through its scholarship officer.

15 Provide a written recommendation from the superintendent of the district where the
16 candidate resides/is licensed/is serving a charge.

17 Arrange for three completed recommendation forms to be submitted. At least one shall be
18 from a college/university/seminary faculty person knowledgeable about the applicant's academic
19 performance and at least one shall be from an individual with knowledge of the applicant's
20 leadership experience in the local church. These evaluation forms are to be sent directly to the
21 Scholarship Officer.

22
23 If a scholarship is granted, the recipient agrees to the following:

24 A full-time academic load as defined by the seminary shall be carried while in a traditional
25 seminary setting.

26 No less than 3 units per year shall be completed while taking courses in a less than full time
27 program.

28 Upon completion of the academic training, the recipient shall serve under appointment in
29 some annual conference of The United Methodist Church for a minimum of two years.

30 If the candidate fails to meet either or both of these conditions, any amount advanced shall
31 be considered a loan, unless repaid within five years. It shall be repayable with an interest rate and
32 on such terms as the conference BOM shall determine.

33 Scholarship grants shall be paid directly to the seminary.

34 35 Candidates for Deacons in Full Connection

36 Certified Candidates for Deacon, who do not pursue full time theological study, will be eligible for
37 assistance in completing Foundational Studies with grant being prorated on the basis of a \$1,000
38 grant depending on the course load taken (e.g. \$500 per semester, \$340 per quarter). Total grant
39 eligibility shall be \$3,000.

40 To be eligible for a grant, Deacon candidates must be certified as a candidate through the
41 appropriate District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

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III. Special Scholarship Awards

Edward Coe Memorial Scholarship – Annually, the Board of Ordained Ministry may award to an outstanding candidate for ordained ministry the Edward Coe Memorial Ministerial Scholarship. Those eligible for the award shall be enrolled in seminary and shall have demonstrated outstanding competence in seminary and show unusual promise for the ministry. The award is made on the basis of nominations submitted by the clergy members of the Annual Conference. If an insufficient number of nominations are made, the Board of Ordained Ministry will select a recipient. The amount of the scholarship varies according to the number of recipients chosen and the Coe Scholarship account balance.

A candidate shall be eligible for the award only once and will be asked to repay it without interest should the candidate fail to complete seminary and not enter the ministry. Nominations for the award shall be submitted to the Scholarship Officer of the Board by April 1st, and the award will be announced at Annual Conference.

This scholarship has been established by monies from the former Idaho Conference designated for scholarship aid in memory of Edward Coe. The trust fund is administered by the Conference Board of Trustees pursuant to ¶12512.3 of The Book of Discipline, 1996.

Jasa Scholarship Awards – Two or more Jasa awards may be presented each year. Applications are available through the Board of Ordained Ministry's Scholarship Officer. Unlike the Coe Scholarship, certified candidates for Deacon in Full Connection are encouraged to apply for Jasa awards.

Each year, unused earnings for Coe/Jasa Funds will be reinvested in the principle of the respective fund, and/ or set aside to be used for scholarships in the coming years. How much is carried over as scholarship money and how much is reinvested each year is at the discretion of the Board at the recommendation of the Scholarship Officer.

Luella M. Odell Memorial Scholarship – A \$1,000 award granted annually to a seminary student who is a candidate for ordained ministry of the United Methodist Church. For information contact:

The Luella M. Odell Memorial Scholarship
c/o Wesley United Methodist Church
1385 Oakway Road
Eugene, OR 97401

IV. Pastoral leaders from outside of the denomination who are in the process of joining the Oregon-Idaho Conference may receive up to \$500 for each seminary course that is required for Methodist studies, up to a total of \$1500.

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1 **G. Certified Licensing School Candidates, Licensed Local Pastors and Lay Persons Assigned as**
2 **Pastoral Leaders**

3 I. A. Certified candidates for the ministry shall be eligible to receive financial assistance up to \$850
4 for tuition and meals for licensing school.

5 B. Part time Local Pastors enrolled in the Ministerial Course of Study shall be eligible to receive
6 financial assistance up to \$550 per year for tuition and meals for course of study classes.

7 C. Full time Local Pastors enrolled in the Ministerial Course of Study shall be eligible to receive
8 financial assistance up to \$850 per year for tuition and meals for course of study classes.
9 Course of study scholarships for full time Local Pastors do not cover all the expenses related to
10 attending the classes and local churches being served by full time Local Pastors are strongly
11 encouraged to factor these costs into the Local Pastor's annual professional expense
12 reimbursement account.

13
14 Licensed Local Pastors who have completed the required course of study may apply for financial
15 assistance for the continuing education courses on the Board of Ordained Ministry's approved list.

16 Applicants may receive:

17 up to \$350 for an event of 1-4 days duration

18 up to \$600 for an event of 5+ days duration

19 an additional \$250 if travel to the event (one-way) exceeds 300 miles

20
21 Lay persons assigned as a pastoral leader may apply for financial assistance for the continuing
22 education courses on the Board of Ordained Ministry's approved list. Applicants may receive:

23 up to \$250 for an event of 1-4 days duration

24 up to \$400 for an event of 5+ days duration

25 an additional \$250 if travel to the event (one-way) exceeds 300 miles

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish? Adoption will revise and clarify the policies for the Board of Ordained Ministry scholarships and continuing education funds (Ministerial Education Fund).

Why is it important? More continuing education money will be made available to clergy as well as to those lay people serving our churches in a pastoral leadership capacity.

How will it be carried out? By whom? The Board of Ordained Ministry will continue to be responsible for the implementation of the policy.

How much will it cost? Where will the money come from? There will be no additional cost to the Conference beyond what is already available through MEF and other scholarship funds