

CRITERIA FOR USE OF PEP-S FUNDS

Funds for D.Min. studies will be limited to Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are members of the Presbytery of West Virginia and are involved in pastoral relationship to a church or other validated ministry, and funds for non-doctoral studies will be limited to the same persons, plus certified Christian Educators and Directors of Christian Education who are working toward certification, in service to churches of the Presbytery.

Applications for aid, with the supporting information required by the criteria, must be presented to the Ministry Committee 's Subcommittee on Pastoral Relations for review and for recommendation to the full Ministry Committee and the Ministry Committee will make the final decision with regard to each application.

1. Doctor of Ministry Studies

- A. **RELEVANCE:** Purpose - specifically to enable participant to grow in proficiencies needed to function in the particular place where he or she does ministry.
- B. **ADMISSION:** Meet entrance requirements of the seminary and perform work that meets academic requirements of the seminary.
- C. **SESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT:** Minister's session indicates willing and active support, including provision for time needed and funding in accordance with congregation's capabilities.
- D. **INDIVIDUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT:** Minister carefully evaluates own areas of effectiveness and areas of need for growth, identifying areas for self in seeking to be a more effective and efficient minister in present setting.
- E. **SESSION OR ORGANIZATION ASSESSMENT:** Session assesses minister's performance, identifying areas of effectiveness and of need for growth. (In absence of a session - - such as a minister not serving a pastorate -- a peer group of persons familiar with minister's performance and abilities will do the assessment.)
- F. **GROWTH GOALS:** Minister takes individual and session assessment, and establishes own basic goals for D.Min program.
- G. **PEER GROUP:** Individual will recruit a peer group, who will meet with minister at least four times a year for duration of the program, to reflect upon student's growth, evaluating efforts and planning of the minister's program. Peer group members are identified to Ministry Committee's Subcommittee on Pastoral Relations upon making application.
- H. **CURRICULA:** Designed to meet individual needs of the minister, emphasis upon courses taught by professors from seminary in local setting.
- I. **PRESENTATION OF LEARNINGS:** Minister will present a copy of research he or she gathers to Presbytery's Resource Center.
- J. **AMOUNT:** Scholarships of up to 1/3 of the tuition costs will be granted for the duration of the prescribed degree program. Grants for fees caused by extension of the prescribed program will not ordinarily be paid. Grants will be paid on an annual basis.

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II. Extended Term Skill Development -- Non Doctoral Studies

- A. **RELEVANCE:** Purpose - specifically to enable participant to grow in proficiencies needed to function in the particular place where he or she does ministry.
- B. **SESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT:** Applicant's session indicates willing and active support, including provision for time needed and funding in accordance with congregation's capabilities.
- C. **INDIVIDUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT:** Applicant carefully evaluates own areas of effectiveness and areas of need for growth, identifying areas for self in seeking to be more effective and efficient in present setting.
- D. **SESSION OR ORGANIZATION ASSESSMENT:** Session assesses applicant's performance, identifying areas of effectiveness and of need for growth. (In absence of session -- such as a minister not serving a pastorate -- a peer group of persons familiar with applicant's performance and abilities will do the assessment.)
- E. **GROWTH GOALS:** Applicant takes individual and session assessment and establishes own basic goals for study program.
- F. **PEER GROUP:** Individual will recruit a peer group, who will meet with him or her at least four times a year for duration of the program, to reflect upon student's growth, evaluating efforts and planning of the study program. Peer group members are identified to Ministry's Subcommittee on Pastoral Relations upon making application.
- G. **CURRICULA:** Designed to meet individual needs of the applicant; emphasis upon courses taught by professors from seminary in local setting.
- H. **PRESENTATION OF LEARNINGS:** Student will present a copy of the research he or she gathers to Presbytery's Resource Center.
- I. **AMOUNT:** Requests for grants for non degree skill development studies will be considered on an individual basis

III. Short Term Skill Development -- Non Doctoral Studies

- A. **RELEVANCE:** Purpose - specifically to enable participant to grow in proficiencies needed to function in the particular place where he or she does ministry.
- B. **INDIVIDUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT:** Minister carefully evaluates own areas of effectiveness, identifies area(s) of need for growth, and indicates ways in which proposed skill development activity will help meet growth goals.
- C. **SESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT:** Minister's session reviews proposed skill development activity and indicates willing and active support, including provision for time needed and funding in accordance with congregation's capabilities. (Ministers not serving a pastorate will ask the body supervising their work to review and support their plan.

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D. **COMMITTEE REVIEW:** Minister's proposed skill development activity will be reviewed by the Presbytery Committee whose area of ministry or mission relates to the area in which the growth is desired. The Presbytery Committee will affirm that the proposed plan should assist the minister in meeting growth goals.

E. **CURRICULA:** Designed to meet individual needs of the minister; emphasis upon courses taught by professors of denominational seminaries or offered through denominational entities.

F. **PRESENTATION OF LEARNINGS:** Minister will present a copy of any papers or projects he or she creates to the Presbytery Resource Center.

G. **AMOUNT:** Requests for grants for short term skill development studies will be considered on an individual basis. Grants will not be offered for skill development activities which are considered normal continuing educational programs, but are reserved for exceptional growth opportunities.