



Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) Financial Aid

Board of Ordained Ministry | South Carolina Conference | The United Methodist Church

POLICY

1) Requirements

- a) Certification as a candidate for ordained ministry is a prerequisite to apply for MEF Grants.
- b) MEF shall not be available for graduate work beyond the Master of Divinity.
- c) All students (seminarians, course of study and undergraduate) must pass all courses with a grade of C or better. The board will only pay for a course once (grants will not be awarded to re-take a course). Maintaining at least a "C" grade average is required to be eligible for additional loans in succeeding years. Maintaining a C average grade is required to be eligible for additional loans in succeeding years.

2) Eligibility and Limits

- a) Certified Candidates for Ordained Ministry who have been approved by their District Committee and District Superintendent to attend the School of Pastoral Ministry (Pastor's Licensing School) can receive a MEF grant equal to the per course limit for Basic Course of Study (currently \$400 for in person/hybrid or \$200 for online). Note: The school director will make these request to offset costs of participating in the school.
- b) Pre-seminary Undergraduate Students who are certified candidates and appointed by the Bishop to a church within the South Carolina Conference, may apply for a grant.
- c) Course of Study Students who are Local pastors appointed by the Bishop to a church within the South Carolina Conference may apply for a maximum of \$1,600 per year (basic or advance) at the levels below. Note: Request for Course of Study Scholarships are made through the Local Pastor Registrar using the Course of Study Scholarship form, not this form.
 - i) Basic Course of Study participants may apply for \$400 per in person or hybrid course for the five-year Basic Course of Study or the School of Pastoral Ministry. \$200 per online course.
 - ii) Advance Course of Study participants who are working towards Full Membership as an Elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference may apply for \$350 per in person or hybrid course. \$200 per online course.
- d) MEF shall not be available for graduate work beyond the Master of Divinity.
- e) Full Time Students:
 - i) Full-time students who are attending University Senate approved United Methodist seminaries will receive \$6,000 annually (\$3,000 for the fall term/\$3,000 for the spring term).
 - ii) Full-Time Students who are attending University Senate approved non-United Methodist seminaries will receive \$3,500 annually (\$1,750 for the fall term/ \$1,750 for the spring term).
 - iii) Part-Time Students attending University Senate Approved Seminaries will be given \$300 per course in the fall, spring and summer terms.

3) Procedures

- a) Application forms may be requested from the Chairperson of the MEF or the candidate's district superintendent.
- b) Each conference year application deadline is June 30 prior to fall term. Only one application is necessary for fall and spring terms. November 1st is the deadline for spring term applications only. April 1st is the deadline for summer term applications only.
- c) Completed applications signed by the candidate, reviewed and signed by the District Superintendent are mailed to the institutional representative to be signed. Once all three have signed the completed application must be returned to the Chairperson of MEF by the deadline. Grants are based on availability of MEF.
- d) Chair of MEF Committee will mail to the applicant a legal note for the amount of the grant to be signed by the applicant and returned to the Chairperson of MEF before checks can be forwarded to the institution.
- e) MEF Committee may recommend to the Board amounts to be used for enlistment, basic professional education aid, continuing education, and professional growth of ordained ministers.
- f) Information on United Methodist Student Loans and Scholarships may be secured from the Office of Loans and Scholarships, GBHEM, P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. Web: www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships



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MEF Scholarship Application

(note: not for Course of Study use. BCOS/ACOS students should use the COS Scholarship Application)

Application for: Fall (September) Spring (January) Summer (June)

First, Middle & Last Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Phone (if different): _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

MINISTERIAL RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION (Must at least be a Certified Candidate)

Candidate for: Deacon Elder Local Pastor

INSTRUCTIONS (Please read carefully)

- 1) Read the application in full before filling in the blanks.
- 2) Applications must be completed for each new school year. Disbursements are made on a semester basis.
A new application is needed for the summer session.
- 3) Complete your portion of the application in detail.
- 4) After you have filled in your part of the application as accurately as possible, mail it to your district superintendent for examination and his/her signature.
- 5) Have the following persons sign this application.
- 6) District superintendent
- 7) The Register of the school/seminary in which you are enrolled.
- 8) Mail a copy of this application to the MEF Chairperson (listed below) using the address below.

This application must be submitted on or before **June 30**
for the full year or **November 1** for winter term only.

Mail or email fully completed application to:

The Rev. Eleanora Ellington, MEF Chairperson (ecellington@umcsc.org)
1288 Charity Church Rd, Huger, SC 29450-9530

EDUCATION

Name of Seminary/College/University: _____

Are you a full time student? YES NO Number of hours: _____

Current Year: First Second Third Fourth Fifth

CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY SHOULD COMPLETE THIS SECTION:

Have you been certified as a candidate for ministry? YES NO Your District: _____

Current Conference Relationship:

Certified Candidate Local Pastor Associate Member Provisional Member

Do you plan to serve as pastor of a local church upon completion of your education? Yes No

If not what Christian ministry do you plan to enter? _____

Do you expect to become an ordained member of the conference. Yes No

Date Submitted: _____ Candidate Signature: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: Candidates should make sure a current transcript is sent to the District Office or Clergy Services when this application is given to the Superintendent for a signature. The District Office will need to forward a copy of the current transcript with the copy of this signed form they return to the MEF chairperson.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION

The District Superintendent should review the entire application and provide any additional information that may assist the committee. After signing, please mail one (1) copy of the application to the appropriate student aid official at the applicant's institution, and one (1) copy to the MEF chair (named above) along with a copy of the most recent transcript for the student to confirm grade average.

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

If so, are they a candidate for: Deacon Orders Elders Orders Local Pastor Status

Date Submitted: _____ DS Signature: _____

District: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION

(This section and the following section are to be completed by the applicant's institution and returned to the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry at the address listed at the end of the application.)

Name of Seminary/College/University: _____

Student Name: _____

Student's classification as of : _____ (date)

College: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
Seminary (year): First Second Third Fourth

Is this a full time student? Yes No

How many hours are required for full time status? _____

Date Signed: _____ Registrar Signature: _____

To whom should we mail the check? _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Financial Aid Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Mail or email fully completed application to:

The Rev. Eleanora Ellington, MEF Chairperson (ecellington@umcsc.org)
1288 Charity Church Rd, Huger, SC 29450-9530