

Leadership Development Fund

Eastern District Conference

Mission Statement

The leadership development fund provides matching funds with congregations and conference related ministries subsidizing educational opportunities for pastors in active assignment, persons aspiring to pastoral ministry seeking additional training for their service, and staff of conference related ministries aiming to improve their skills and leadership abilities in order to more effectively carry out their ministries.

Funding Sources

Funds to establish the Leadership Development Fund came from investing the full amount of the Mohr Trust Fund (approx. \$136,000.00), a gift initially bequeathed to First Mennonite Church, Allentown, then transferred to Eastern District Conference as result of closing the former First Mennonite in January 2006. Additional funds in the future can be assigned as directed by individuals, congregations, or conferences.

Guidelines for Distribution

1. Grants will be awarded according to an approved application process under the supervision of the Ministerial Leadership Committee.
2. Persons in active pastoral assignments or persons pursuing ordination while in another ministry assignment but needing to meet educational requirements prior to ordination will have first priority in award of grants.
3. Staff of conference related ministries may apply for scholarship aid in order to enhance their work assignment when authorized by their work supervisor or director.
4. The annual aggregate total of awards each calendar year will not be greater than 6% of the annual fund balance as of December 31. Exceptions to this guideline may be allowed by unanimous agreement of the Ministerial Leadership Committee.
5. Single recipient awards shall not be greater than \$1,000 annually.
6. Funds will be held and disbursed by the Eastern District Conference treasurer according to distributions approved by the Ministerial Leadership Committee.

Investment Guidelines

Funds in the Leadership Development Fund will be invested according to guidelines consistent with Anabaptist Mennonite principles and identified by Mennonite Mutual Aid for Praxis Mutual Funds and Mennonite Foundation investments.

Accountability

A balance sheet report shall be submitted to the EDC Conference Administrative Board at least once a year. A list of grant award recipients shall be submitted and included in the annual report of the Ministerial Leadership Committee.

Review Process

These guidelines shall be reviewed initially after the first two years of existence, thereafter every five years.