

# Conference Funding for Ministry and Leadership Development

## Eastern Pennsylvania Conference The United Methodist Church

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church eagerly supports numerous ministries among its more than 400 churches through training, information-sharing, networking, promotion, connectional relationships and funding assistance. In addition to funding for ministry and loans for church building projects, the Conference also provides educational scholarships and grants to support learning, career development and ministry excellence among lay and clergy members.

Moreover, The United Methodist Church offers an array of grants to fund ministry and scholarships for higher education to churches and individuals. We try to inform our members and congregations about these denominational funding opportunities throughout the year.

Anyone can learn about these many helpful financial resources on two pages of the Conference website. Visit our [Funding for Ministry](#) page and our [Higher Education Scholarships & Grants](#) page. Both pages are accessible from our [Conference Finance](#) (<https://www.epaumc.org/administration/finance/>) webpage.

Highlights of some of the information on those pages appear in this brochure.



## **Conference Loan Fund**

The EPA Conference Loan Fund is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation. Its purpose is to make loans to churches and agencies for building projects. The Loan Fund is also an investment opportunity through which individuals, groups and churches may support church extension and church development by purchasing investment certificates. [Learn more.](#) (<https://www.epaumc.org/administration/finance/conference-loan-fund/>) Call 800-828-9093 for loan information. Call 610-666-9090, ext. 1007, for investing information.

## **Narberth Legacy Ministry Action Grants**

### **2021-2023 Action Grants**

The Narberth Legacy Ministry Action Fund is a Permanent Endowment Fund administered by the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation on behalf of the Eastern PA Conference. It was established from the 2014 discontinuation of Narberth (PA) UMC, as a living memorial to past church members, to provide substantial support to new, innovative, justice-seeking ministries that impact the life of communities.

Beginning July 1, 2021 one grant for up to \$45,000, distributed over a three-year period, will be awarded annually to a church. Eligible ministries are those that seek to serve populations that may be multicultural, young or intergenerational, unchurched or de-churched, and challenged by racism, discrimination, poverty and other disadvantages. Such ministries should demonstrate viability and a commitment to foster productive cooperation with church and community partners and stakeholders. They should also witness publicly to an active Christian faith and the call to “do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.” (from Micah 6:8)

The recipient ministry’s progress will be assessed to ensure continuation of the funding. Funds will be granted only for endeavors that produce action and offer the potential for real change. Funds will not be granted to pay for staffing or ordinary operating costs, nor for work that is primarily related to training, dialogues, one-time events, property purchases, or construction or improvement of facilities.

Learn more on the conference website’s Funding for Ministry page or contact the Office of Connectional Ministries. **Deadline: Jan. 31, 2021**

## **Peace with Justice Grants**

Apply for Peace with Justice Grants for use by individuals, churches or organizations within the Eastern PA Conference. The grants, funded by one-half of our Conference’s annual Peace with Justice Sunday offering, are designed to support ministry that addresses peace and justice-related concerns. Grants are given to support a variety of efforts, including seeking alternatives to violence and its causes; advancing racial and economic justice and self-determination among disadvantaged peoples; restorative justice, including abolition of the death penalty; teaching environmental care of God’s Creation; etc. The churchwide Peace with Justice Sunday offering is administered by the General Board of Church and Society. **No deadline.** Learn more at <http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/peace-with-justice-sunday>.

- [Peace with Justice Grants for Individuals, Churches, Organizations](https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Peace-with-Justice-Grants-for-Individuals.pdf) (<https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Peace-with-Justice-Grants-for-Individuals.pdf>)



### **Dewees Grants**

In accordance with provisions in the Dewees Will, funds are given to the Eastern PA Conference of The United Methodist Church “to use in the mission programs of the Church.” Grants will typically not exceed \$5,000 and must be for the initial funding of a project only.

Grant funds cannot be used to pay for building expenses, maintenance or repairs, including those caused by natural calamities, etc. The primary purpose of the grant shall not be for salaries. Examples of acceptable use of funds include:

- Approved new ministry initiatives and mission projects
- New church starts and disciple-making initiatives
- Scholarships for Dismantling Racism training
- Racial-Ethnic ministry initiatives
- Scholarships for Camp & Retreat Ministries

Churches should mail completed application forms to their [District Superintendent](#).

Committees, boards and agencies should mail completed application forms to the EPA Conference Director of Connectional Ministries (P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820).

**Deadlines are: March 1 for Spring grants; and September 1 for Fall grants. [Learn more](https://www.epaumc.org/administration/finance/funding-for-ministry/dewees-grants/)**

### **Congregational Development & Redevelopment Grants**

The Conference Congregational Development Team (CDT) provides grants to new church starts and re-starts (post-launch) and also to existing churches to support creative, new outreach initiatives that show promise for growth and effectiveness. Applications are available on the [Congregational Development web page](https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/congregational-development/) (<https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/congregational-development/>). Also available there is a form for establishing a Covenant Relationship between the Congregational Development Team and a Redevelopment Church. **Deadline: Rolling Applications; No Deadline**

### **Urban Ministry Grants**

The Conference Urban Ministry Office and Urban Commission strive to help reinvigorate and build capacity for effective ministry in our various urban areas by providing information, expertise, encouragement, funding and connectional support to urban congregations. The Commission awards two types of grants—both named the Herbert E. Palmer Award for

Urban Ministry—to eligible, innovative, outreach-focused churches. The grants are named in honor of a longtime, faithful conference leader in this arena of ministry.

**Urban Alliance Grants** support alliances of two or more congregations working together in collaborative ministries, preferably with community and civic partners. Urban Alliances, because they involve multiple partners, may apply for funding up to \$6,000.

**Urban Church Initiative Grants** support new or expanding ministries within individual urban congregations. Local churches may apply for funding up to \$2,500.

Grant funds may not be used to pay salaries or for any existing building expenses, maintenance or repairs, including those caused by natural calamities. [Learn more.](https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/urban/) (<https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/urban/>) **Deadlines: March 1 and November 1.**

### **United Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc.**

#### **Building Repair Grants**

UM Metro Ministries will receive applications two times per year. Limited funds are available to assist the most compelling projects that demonstrate high impact on the life of the congregation and/or the community it serves.

Congregations are limited to one Building Repair Grant per calendar year. Applications not approved for funding during the first funding cycle may be resubmitted during the second funding cycle. A District Superintendent's recommendation is required prior to submitting the application.

All grant applications must be marked: ATTENTION: METRO GRANT and submitted to: The Eastern PA Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, P.O. Box 820 Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820. **Deadlines: March 15 and September 15.** Find the grant application and contact information on the conference website's **Urban & Metro Ministries** and **Funding for Ministries** pages.

#### **Conference Advance Specials**

Conference Advance Specials is a missional stewardship program of second-mile giving by generous churches, groups and individuals to support primarily local ministries, including local church outreach initiatives. Projects approved by the Annual Conference are recommended to local churches for support at various levels. Churches that want to give to support Conference Advance Specials should first fulfill their primary connectional stewardship commitments to the conference and general church by remitting apportioned funds and direct bill payments. [Learn more.](https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/mission-outreach/) (<https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/mission-outreach/>)

#### **Other Grants Available Conference-wide**

**The William "Bill" Drendall Endowment Fund of Mount Gretna UMC** (PO Box 427, Mount Gretna, PA, 17064) offers a limited number of grants of up to \$10,000 as seed money for new, nonprofit (501(c)(3) Christian ministries that are consistent with the church's mission and values. The one-time grants are available each year, and applications—available from **January 15 to March 15**—can be obtained by calling or emailing Mt. Gretna UMC at 717-964-3241 or [MGUMC@verizon.net](mailto:MGUMC@verizon.net). Applications are reviewed from March 15 through April, and funds are dispersed in May.



# Scholarships

## Scholarships for Higher Education and Ministry

### Eastern PA Conference Undergraduate Scholarships Program

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference awards scholarships annually to United Methodist undergraduate college and university students who have been members of an Eastern PA Conference church for at least two years. Scholarships are funded by annual conference offerings and other donations made to support higher education opportunities for deserving member students.

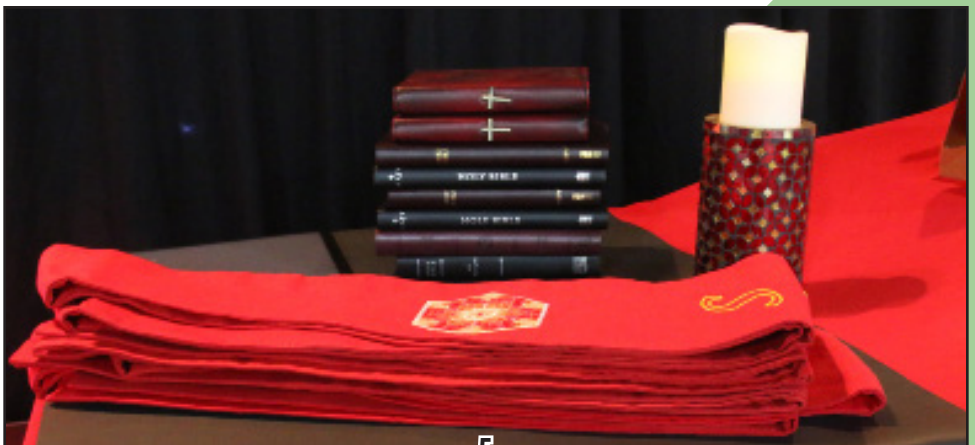
Deadlines are **March 1** (for fall semester) and **November 1** (for spring semester) every year. Applicants must be full-time, taking 12 credit hours or more, and they must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). Learn more at <https://www.epaumc.org/administration/finance/higher-education-scholarships/epa-conference-scholarships/>.

### Eastern PA Conference Education Society Grants

The Education Society of the Eastern PA Conference offers numerous grants yearly to assist worthy individuals who are members of local UM churches with defraying the cost of higher education. **The annual deadline is in May.** For more information, visit <https://www.epaumc.org/administration/finance/higher-education-scholarships/education-society-grants/>.

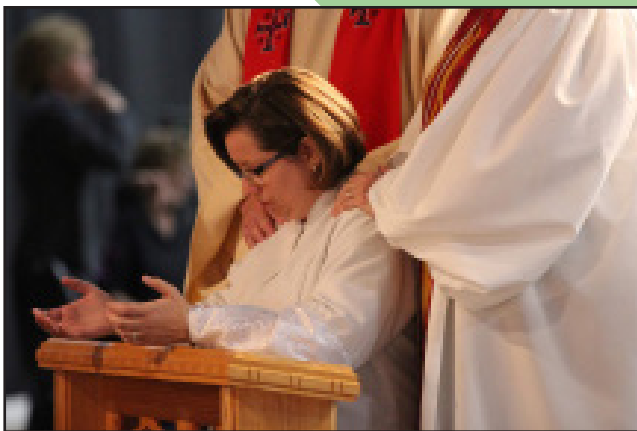
### Financial Support for Candidates for Ordained Ministry

Financial Support is available for college and seminary students who have been approved by a local congregation or District Committee of Ordained Ministry or Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Students must be attending an accredited college or seminary and must be seeking ordination by and serving within the bounds of the Eastern PA Conference. Completed applications must be sent to the Board of Ordained Ministry treasurer. [Learn more.](https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/boom/candidate-support/) (<https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/boom/candidate-support/>)



### **Financial Support for Clergy**

Active clergy members of the Eastern PA Conference, including retired clergy under appointment, may receive aid for approved continuing education. Additional aid is available to commissioned clergy during their probationary period and clergy engaged in a post-master's degree program. Support for sabbaticals is also available for continuing education and for ordained and licensed clergy to receive spiritual direction through its pastoral care program. [Learn more. \(https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/boom/clergy-financial-support/\)](https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/boom/clergy-financial-support/)



### **Other Scholarships Offered Conference-wide**

**BMCR/BUMP College Scholarships** are awarded annually by Black Methodists for Church Renewal of Philadelphia and Black United Methodist Preachers to graduating high school seniors who are active members of BMCR-member churches and are beginning higher education. The scholarships rely on BMCR-member churches (and other supporters) to participate in this program by donating to the scholarship fund and recruiting applicants from among their memberships.





# UMC Ministry Grants & Educational Scholarships

## *Funding from United Methodist General Agencies*

### General Board of Church and Society

Church and Society oversees the distribution of three different grants available to United Methodist congregations and organizations: Human Relations Day, Ethnic Local Church, and Peace with Justice ministry grants. Visit their [Grants webpage](https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/grants) at <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/grants> to learn more.

### General Board of Global Ministries

#### **Study Grants in UMC's Four Areas of Focus**

The UMC's missions agency annually awards stipends for graduate and undergraduate study in the denomination's four areas of focus: leadership development, congregational development, ministry with the poor and global health. Multiyear support helps students complete study programs and assume productive professional roles in church and society.

Scholarship funds come from a variety of sources, including the churchwide **World Communion Sunday Offering**, endowments and the agency's general budget. More scholarships are granted in the congregational development category because there are more designated endowments for that area of study. [See recent article](https://www.umcmmission.org/share-our-work/news-stories/2019/may/global-ministries-awards-study-grants) about grants awarded for 2019-20. (<https://www.umcmmission.org/share-our-work/news-stories/2019/may/global-ministries-awards-study-grants>)

### Funding for Justice Ministry

Global Ministries administers two programs funded by the **Human Relations Day** churchwide offering that support ministries of justice advocacy and community development.

The **Community Developers Program** is a network of **UM racial-ethnic congregations and communities** throughout the country that demonstrates a commitment to systemic transformation. Their work involves: advocacy; community organizing and development; socio-economic development; youth organizing and social action; and addressing local needs and conditions using local assets and resources. Eligible churches may apply to join the network and receive multi-year funding for this community-focused empowerment work.

The **United Methodist Voluntary Services program** has funds available for community projects that challenge unjust political, social and economic systems and work to empower the poor. Projects should be in supportive relationship with UM churches.

Additional funds for **Rural and Urban Ministries projects** are also available. For information, contact Dana Lyles, Director U.S. Office on Multicultural Ministries, Global Mission Connections at [dlyles@umcmmission.org](mailto:dlyles@umcmmission.org).

### UM Discipleship Ministries

Visit their website to learn more about the following scholarships and grants: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>

- [High Impact Church Planter Residency](#)
- [Racial Ethnic Local Church Concerns \(RELCC\) grants](#). (Up to \$10,000. Due in Sept.)
- [Youth Service Fund and Grants for Ministries with Young People](#) (due June 1)
- Explore Discipleship Ministries [Scholarships and Grants](#) at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/about/grants-and-scholarships>.

## **United Methodist Church**

### **Scholarships**

Visit UMC-related sites to access information and applications for available scholarship funds. Eligibility requirements and award amounts vary. [www.umc.org/resources/scholarships](http://www.umc.org/resources/scholarships).



### **General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**

The United Methodist Scholarship and Programs are a churchwide educational service providing scholarships and loans to help supplement the financial needs of today's students. Funding for these scholarships and loans are provided through offerings, wills, annuities, and other designated gifts. Through the Loan Program, students may borrow up to \$5,000 per year at 5 percent interest (Five for Five program). The 135-year-old United Methodist Student Loan Fund is the oldest student loan fund in the United States.

Visit the GBHEM website to learn more about the following scholarships and grants: <https://www.gbhem.org/>

- [Scholarship Portal: Ministerial Studies, Non-Ministerial Studies, Ethnic Minorities, Undergraduate, Graduate](#)
- [Scholarships: General, Racial-Ethnic Specific, Ministry as Career, Doctorate-Level](#) (opens in January, closes in March)
- [Grants/Fellowships: Dempster, Ethnic-In-Service Training \(EIST\), Women of Color](#) (opens in January, closes in March)
- [Young Clergy Initiative Grants](#) (opens in January, closes in March)

### **General Commission on Archives and History**

Visit their website to learn more about the following grants and scholarships: <http://www.gcah.org>

- [Grants, Awards, Prizes and Scholarships for historical research and writing](#)

### **General Commission on Religion and Race**

Visit their website to learn more about the following grants: <http://www.gcorr.org>

- [CORR Action Fund](#) (quadrennial)

### **United Methodist Communications**

Visit their website to learn more about the following grants and scholarships: <http://www.umcom.org/>

- [New Church Starts Promotional Item Grants](#) (\$2,500)
- [Website Development Grants](#)
- [Leonard Perryman Communications Scholarship](#) (\$2,500 due March 15)
- [Stoody-West Fellowship](#) (\$6,000 due March 15)

### **United Methodist Women**

Visit their website to learn more about the following grants: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

- [Ministry and Emerging Child Advocacy Grants](#)