



Northern Illinois Conference

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY - Fruitfulness Team

Continuing Education Grants Criteria

Updated and approved December 2026

1. Continuing Education grants are designated for clergy (elders, deacons, probationary members and local pastors) in order to provide supplemental funding for participation in church-related educational activities.
2. Education expenses related to commissioning or ordination requirements, or related to requirements to obtain a local pastor's license, do not qualify for this program.
3. Mandatory events do not qualify for continuing education grants. Programs undertaken for recreational purposes are not eligible for grants.
4. Grants are intended to support individuals, not organizations, events, or programs.
5. Short-term Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trip expenses may be eligible for grants if they meet the criteria of **professional growth**, **advancing learning goals**, and **developing skills for ministry**.
6. Receipts **must** be submitted for event, class or trip before funds will be released. An exception may be considered in some cases.
7. By receiving a grant, you have agreed to submit an evaluation within 3 weeks after completing the event. Failure to do so will affect your ability to receive funding in the future.
8. For questions regarding your application, contact Dave Yim at Bom.ce.grants@gmail.com.



Northern Illinois Conference

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY – Active Service Committee

Updated and approved December 2026 (all other forms will not be accepted)

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

As part of its program to provide continuing education, the Board of Ordained Ministry makes individual grants to assist persons in professional ministry to attend events that meet their needs for **professional growth**, to **advance learning goals**, and to **develop skills for ministry**. These grants support continuing education. Persons appointed to attend school should apply for scholarships from other sources.

Continuing Education funds are available for members of the Northern Illinois Conference or for diaconal ministers and persons who are certified for specialized ministries who serve within the Northern Illinois Conference.

As a requirement for receiving a grant, each person must submit an evaluation answering the following questions and submit it to Dave Yim (Bom.ce.grants@gmail.com) within 3 weeks after attending the event.

1. How do you plan to use the learning from this event in your ministry?
2. What skills, if any, did you develop or deepen?
3. Would you recommend the event/course to others? Why or why not?

We encourage all applicants to develop a comprehensive plan for continuing education in consultation with their Staff Parish Relations Committee, District Superintendent, and/or a career assessment center, such as Midwest Ministry Development Center.

Individual grants from the Board of Ordained Ministry are intended to assist applicants to attend events that would otherwise be beyond their resources and the resources of the local church or agency. **Grants are not intended to substitute for the financial responsibility of the local church or agency toward the continuing education of its professional staff.**

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

- A. Please answer **fully** questions 1 – 9 on the online application
- B. Applications are evaluated by the Committee on Continuing Education of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
Grants are made four (4) times each year. Evaluations will be completed no later than:

April 15	for applications received from January 1 – March 31
July 15	for applications received from April 1 – June 30
October 15	for applications received from July 1 – September 30
January 15	for applications received from October 1 – December 31

- C. Eligible persons may receive up to a maximum of \$1,000 during each quadrennium.

You may apply for a maximum of \$500 in any two-year period.

For example, a person who receives the maximum of \$500 in the first year of the quadrennium is not eligible to apply for additional funds until two years have passed. Then she/he may again apply for up to a maximum of \$500.

You may never apply for more than \$500.

Annual budgeted funds will be divided evenly over four quarters. Any monies not distributed in one quarter will be rolled into the next quarter. Funding is limited.

Actual grants for approved applications may be less than the applicant requested.

In the event of a shortage of funds the following priorities shall be applied:

- Applications shall be accepted and reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- If possible, all applications in a given quarter shall be funded, even if such funding is at a reduced level.
- Applicants who have never previously received grants will be given priority.
- Partially completed applications will not be considered.

- D. **It is very important that your responses to the questions provide the information and documentation requested in order to assure a fair evaluation of your request. You must submit receipts with your application.**

- E. Requests for reimbursement of expenses for events that have already taken place will be received **up to thirty (30) days after the event** and will be evaluated on the same basis as applications relating to future events. If later, there is no guarantee the application will be accepted or that the expenses will be reimbursed in full.