

John Calvin Presbytery
May 16th, 2024

Two Hundred and Fourteenth Stated Meeting
Ozark Prairie Presbyterian Church
Mount Vernon, Missouri

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY

Rural Pastoral Leadership Grants/Scholarships Policy

Due to the stewardship and generosity of donors in John Calvin Presbytery, funds are available for persons pursuing seminary training in preparation for becoming a Minister of the Word and Sacrament or Commissioned Ruling Elder, with the goal of encouraging pastors to serve rural churches in John Calvin Presbytery. These funds have been given for rural pastoral leadership. If a recipient takes a call in another area, it is hoped that the recipient will seek to replenish the rural pastoral leadership fund, which helped fund their own education.

In recognition of the three-way covenant between the candidate, the congregation, and the presbytery, this policy provides guidelines for the use of the funds.

All seminary students under care of John Calvin Presbytery who meet the guidelines below will receive up to \$5000 per year.

Students will be of good character and active, involved members of their congregation. Unless they are away for seminary training, students will ordinarily live within the bounds of John Calvin Presbytery. Funds are to be disbursed to inquirers, candidates, and CRE certificate students who are making satisfactory progress towards their educational goals of a Master of Divinity or a CRE certificate at a PC(USA)-related seminary, or another approved seminary. The individual will have completed the presbytery's application process and been accepted under care by the presbytery, demonstrating a relationship with a congregation of John Calvin Presbytery, and also the Preparation for Ministry committee of the presbytery. Students will request funds through their CPM committee, who will provide regular reports to COM.

The funds will reimburse up to 50% of out-of-pocket tuition and travel expenses at the conclusion of the semester, based upon required documentation. These funds may also be used to defray the costs of attending a residency requirement of the seminary training.

Students are expected to disclose other sources of support they are receiving. Awards will be tailored to needs. The funds will be administered by a task group comprised of one CPM, COM, and AMC member, with the executive presbyter serving ex-officio. It is hoped that the congregation of the candidate will also provide financial support of the candidate. Candidates with a greater financial need may request additional funds.

Ministers taking new calls in the presbytery can apply for seminary debt reduction through these funds, to be awarded at the end of one full year of service, and at the end of the second and third years. These funds will be paid directly to the lender and are expected to go alongside other debt reduction programs available through the PC(USA) and other sources.

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When the candidate has been certified ready to receive a call or accept a commission, it is expected that they will accept openings in John Calvin Presbytery first, and it is hoped that a worthy tenure will occur.

We are grateful to our donors for their financial support.