

DIVISION OF CONTINUING FORMATION

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“Throughout their careers, clergy shall engage in continuing education for ministry, professional development, and spiritual formation and growth in order to lead the church in fulfilling the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. This shall include a carefully developed personal program of study augmented periodically by involvement in organized educational and spiritual growth activities.” (2004 *Discipline*, ¶351)

The Division on Continuing Formation is responsible for setting minimal standards and specific guidelines for continuing formation (education) for members of the conference and insuring the availability of such programs. **Thirty contact hours/ (30 c.e.u.’s) are required per year.**

The following persons are eligible for continuing formation funds:

1. Clergy members in full connection and under appointment by the North Texas Conference.
2. Diaconal ministers employed full-time in a local church or agency of the NTC.
3. Full time local pastors under appointment in the NTC.
4. Commissioned ministers under appointment in the NTC.

All continuing formation events shall first be approved by the applicant’s PPR or equivalent Committee, and the district superintendent will send an approval form to the division chair (attached, email “signature” acceptable). Continuing formation events shall fit into the applicant’s goals for continuing formation as stated in the Charge Conference report.

Funds are made available to the Division through the Ministerial Education Fund apportionment, 25% of which is returned to the conference for use by the Board of Ordained Ministry. *Funds for continuing formation are **not** an entitlement.*

The Division will give scholarship/grant priority to group events sponsored by/in the NTC. These events may be planned by a district or a cluster of professionals or be events designed by a UM agency in the bounds of the Conference. To receive funding, events must be approved by the Division at least 6 months prior.

Continuing formation grants for individuals attending programs of study outside NTC are made as funds are available. The Division recommends that each local church or agency provide a continuing formation allowance of not less than 3% of the conference equitable salary.

Continuing formation grants *may* be approved for up to 1/3 the total cost of an event. It is recommended that the applicant pay 1/3 and the local church or agency pay 1/3. Exceptions to this guideline will be based on need and available funds. Priority consideration will be given to applicants who have not previously received grants. Individual grants will not exceed \$1000 over a three-year period. Continuing formation grants are not available for assistance in any degree programs (i.e. DMin, MDiv).

Applications are available online on the North Texas website, from the district offices, and the chair of the Division. All requests for continuing formation funds and supporting documentation should be sent to the Division, Kathryn Strempeke, chair, c/o Lake Cities UMC, 300 E. Hundley, Lake Dallas, TX 75065 or kstrempeke@lakecitiesumc.org.