MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND
(MEF)

What is the Ministerial Education Fund?
MEF is a service loan offered to candidates for ordination who pursuing a Masters level theological degree. MEF is funded through the generosity of United Methodist people across Mississippi and around the world through mission shares and special offerings.

Who is eligible for Ministerial Education Fund?

- Certified candidate for ordained ministry in the Mississippi Conference; AND
- Enrolled in a University Senate approved seminary; AND
- Full-time student (as defined by seminary – minimum of 9 semester hours, may be more for some seminaries).

Note: Nine hours is considered full time, with the exception of summer, J-terms, and ExL programs. If a person fails a course, they will be responsible for paying to take the course again.

How much does Ministerial Education Fund cover?
MEF allocations are 50% of tuition each semester. (Tuition costs are based on tuition at United Methodist Seminaries. MEF is award up to 50% of highest tuition at a United Methodist seminary. At institutions where tuition is less, MEF is awarded for 50% of tuition costs at that institution.)

What are the requirements for MEF for candidates in seminary?
The application procedure for scholarships has the following three requirements:

1. Certified Candidates in seminary must submit an application requesting a loan each semester (fall, winter, spring, or summer) indicating current student classification, their seminary, their District Superintendent, their date of certification as a candidate and their current mailing address.

2. Certified Candidates in seminary must request their District Superintendent’s confirmation of their status as a certified candidate for ministry (see The Book of Discipline 2012 par.304-305) be reported immediately after their initial certification as a candidate during the conference year and annually, thereafter, by September 1.

3. Certified Candidates in seminary must request their accredited seminary’s registrar office to certify and report the number of hours for which they are registered each semester (fall, winter, spring, and summer) after the add/drop date. Make certain this report indicates the number of registered hours.

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These three items should be sent to the Mississippi Conference Office of Spiritual Leadership.

**What is “the catch”?**
MEF is a “service loan”. The loan is repaid with service to the Annual Conference. In receiving the service loan, you agree to serve under appointment in the United Methodist Church for four years following the completion of your theological education. Each semester you will sign a service loan agreement when you receive your allocation.

**When can I expect to receive my Ministerial Education Fund allocation?**
MEF application is accessible on the Conference website ([www.mississippi-umc.org](http://www.mississippi-umc.org)), in the Financial Aid office at your school, or by emailing Dorothy Ellis ([dellis@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:dellis@mississippi-umc.org)). An application must be submitted EACH semester that you desire to receive an allocation. Applications should be received in the Office of Spiritual Leadership no later than September 15 for Summer and Fall allocation and February 15 for J-Term and Spring allocation. Checks will not be mailed to seminaries until after the “add/drop” date each semester.

**Note:** If a person fails a course, they will be responsible for paying to take the course again.
Application for Service Loan
Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church
The Ministerial Education Fund

Name: ___________________________________________ Last  First  Middle

Address: _______________________________________
Address While Attending School

Address: _______________________________________
Summer (if different from above)

Email: _________________________________________ Phone: _______________________

(1) Are you a full-time student? _____Yes _____No
If yes, what semester? _____Fall _____J-Term _____Spring _____Summer

(2) Seminary

(3) Anticipated Graduation Date

(4) Are you a certified candidate for ministry? _____Yes _____ No
District: ______________________________________ Date: _______________________
District Superintendent:

(5) Do you expect to be ordained in the Mississippi Conference?
_____Yes _____ No  If yes: _______ Elder _______ Deacon

Pledge of Applicant:
If this service loan or any portion of it is granted, I will use it only toward educational expenses. It is my understanding that, upon completion of my degree, I am to serve four years under full-time appointment in the United Methodist Church. Should I fail to do so, the service loan shall become due and payable immediately upon the terms specified in the Service Loan Agreement.

Date________________________ Signature of Applicant________________________________

Authorization of Seminary

I, ___________________________________________ certify that ___________________________________________
Registar/Financial Aid officer Applicant

is registered for _______ hours at __________________________ for the ____________________________
seminary

semester of 20____ at a tuition cost of $_________________________ per hour; and total semester

tuition cost of $_________________________.

Signature__________________________ Title_________________________
Email____________________________ Phone________________________
Mailing Address_______________________________________________

Seal or Stamp of School

Return this form to: Office of Spiritual Leadership, 320 D Briarwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39206

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Scholarship Application
RIM Continuing Education Event

Resident’s Name: ____________________________________________

Current Appointment: ________________________________________

RIM Commissioning Class Year: ________________________________

Event for Scholarship: _______________________________________

Date of Event: ______________________________________________

Cost of Event: _______________________________________________

Funds/grants expected from other sources (amount and grantor):

____________________________________________________________________

Resident’s total salary package for Current Appointment: __________

Scholarships can only be used for continuing education requirements beyond the Mississippi Conference. The Residents In Ministry Council will provide partial scholarships (up to 75%, but not to exceed $1,000) to Residents who demonstrate financial need. All applications must be submitted to the Office of Spiritual Leadership (dellis@mississippi-umc.org) by January 31 or July 31 of each year for consideration. Applications will be reviewed in February and August of each year. Only one scholarship will be considered for a Resident within a conference year.

Funds for scholarships may vary year to year depending on the amount of money that is available for distribution.