



Lifelong Learning - Churches can contribute \$150 (or more if they choose) per year for their pastors, and we match up to \$150. These funds can be used for training related to ministry, including the yearly Ministers Retreat. We have decided to add wording to our policy that will allow us to consider Ministers with a connection to the Church of God who are either between churches, or are pursuing ministry outside of the local church such as Chaplaincy to be able to contribute to this fund directly. Each application such as this will be considered on a case to case basis by the Pastoral Health Ministry as an exception to our base policy. As more of our ministers serve in non traditional ministries we believe that it is still important to support them in this way, as long as they strive to maintain a connection to the Church of God in Michigan.



General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan
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Lifelong Learning Matching Funds

Sponsored by Pastoral Health Ministry
General Assembly of the
Church of God in Michigan

Introduction

In creating and developing this program, the Pastoral Health Ministry is seeking to help pastors take advantage of the resources available for their educational enrichment. The purpose is to enhance a minister's knowledge, skills, and academic training.

Eligibility

Ministers Ordained by the Church of God, vocationally employed as staff in parachurch or other organizations, such as hospices, hospitals, military, etc., and also maintain an ongoing relationship in good standing with the Church of God through annual registration and involvement in a local congregation or our State Ministry.

The Plan

A congregation makes a deposit with the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan in the name of their senior or associate pastor(s). Using both the B. Gale Hetrick Memorial Endowment and the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan's general budget, the Pastoral Health Ministry will match the deposit up to \$150.00 per year. Therefore a \$150.00 deposit by a congregation for their minister will be matched with \$150.00, providing \$300.00 in the minister's Lifelong Learning Matching Funds account. A congregation may deposit more in Lifelong Learning Matching Funds than the initial \$150.00, but only \$150.00 will be matched. A church may deposit in their minister's name each year for three years without the money being used. If, after three years, the minister has not used some of their funds for education, no additional monies will be allowed to be deposited until some money is used. In any case no one's account is to exceed \$1,000.00.

The monies the Church deposits into the account belongs to the Church and the matching dollars belong to the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan. Monies given by the local church will be attributed to the general giving of that congregation to the Church of God in Michigan. If a minister leaves his/her congregation, the money will remain on account for the congregations' next minister.

All candidates who wish to contribute to the fund personally will be considered on an exception basis by Pastoral Health Ministry.

If there is a question about the validity of an event the minister wants to apply Lifelong Learning Matching Funds to, the Executive Committee of the Pastoral Health Ministry will make the final call. It is recommended a minister use his/her Lifelong Learning account for a wide range of educational events. Therefore, Lifelong Learning Matching Funds money should not be used for more than two of the exact same educational opportunities without special arrangements with the Pastoral Health Ministry.

How To Get The Plan Started

Submit payment to the Church of God in Michigan either with a check or PayPal, <https://micog.org/lifelonglearning.html>, or direct PayPal payment(s) to email, micog@micog.org. Mail check payable to Church of God in Michigan, 4212 Alpha Street, Lansing, Michigan 48910-0711.

Qualifying Experiences

The money can be used for any training/educational experience. It is not to be used for inspirational events like Praise Gatherings, concerts, Camp Meetings, retreats, and the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan's annual meeting.

360 Ministry Leadership Conference

Berean Leadership

Catalyst

Anderson School of Theology, Mid-America Christian University, Warner University, and other accredited Online programs

Discipleship.org

Exponential

Leadership Focus

Lecture Tours on Biblical Subjects, Church History or Theology

Ministers Retreat

Youth Specialties

A person using funds for pursuing a degree (a degree program in an academic institution) could use the funds for several years because course offerings from semester/term/year would offer emphasis in various areas. It is not appropriate for Lifelong Learning Matching Funds to be used for the North American Convention of the Church of God, camp meetings, or ministers' meetings such as General Assembly, etc.