

**North Texas Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Continuing Education Grants Policy
(Revised 5/2012; Reformatted 7/2018)**

"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 carefully developed personal program of study augmented periodically by involvement in organized educational and spiritual growth activities." (Discipline 2008, par. 351)

1. The Board of Ordained Ministry 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. The Conference requires 30 contact hours – 3 c.e.u.'s per year.
2. The following persons are eligible for continuing education grant funds:
 - Clergy members in full connection and under appointment by the NTAC.
 - Local pastors under appointment in the NTAC
 - Commissioned ministers under appointment in the NTAC.
3. All continuing formation events shall first be approved by the applicant's S/PPRC or equivalent ministry setting committee.
4. The district superintendent will send an approval form to the Conference Ministerial Services Administrator (attached, email "signature" acceptable).
5. Continuing education events shall fit into the applicant's goals for professional development as stated in their Charge Conference report or in their professional development plan authored during the Clergy Fruitfulness Initiative.
6. Funds are made available to the Division for Conference use 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.*
7. The Division will give /grant priority to group events sponsored by/in the NTAC. 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.
8. Continuing education 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.
9. Priority consideration will be given to applicants who have not previously received grants. Individual grants will not exceed \$ 1400 over a four year period.
10. Continuing formation grants are not available for aid in any degree programs (i.e. DMin, MDiv).
11. Applications are available online on the North Texas website, from the district offices, and the Conference Ministerial Services Administrator. All requests for continuing formation funds (plus accompanying documentation) should be sent to, The Ministerial Services Administrator, Mariel Vela at mariel@ntcumc.org.