

Louisiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
Division of Deacons and Diaconal Ministers
Policy Number 303
Theological Education and Continuing Education Funding

Full Time Studies*

Persons who are certified candidates for ordained ministry, have chosen the deacon track, are enrolled **full time** in a University Senate approved seminary, and are able to render a minimum of 10 years of full time active service to the Louisiana Conference after commissioning may receive the current funding rate of \$200.00 per semester hour. These funds are currently matched by a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana. The maximum of combined funding available to each certified candidate for ordained ministry is to be \$35,000.00.

Part-time and Short Course Studies*

Certified deacon candidates enrolled part-time or in intensive short courses at University Senate approved seminaries and are able to render a minimum of 10 years of full time active service to the Louisiana Conference after commissioning may receive up to \$600.00 per required Basic Graduate Theological Studies course, not to exceed \$2,400.00 per year. These funds are matched by a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana.

***Seminary funding and grants are awarded in the form of a loan to be repaid by five years of service in the Louisiana Conference and is made subject to the availability of funds.**

Certification Course Studies

Professional certification candidates enrolled in intensive short courses at University Senate approved seminaries may receive up to \$500 per required certification course, not to exceed \$2,000 per year.

Paraprofessional certification candidates enrolled in intensive short courses or on-line courses at University Senate approved institutions of higher education may receive up to \$400 per required paraprofessional certification course, not to exceed \$1,600 per year.

Continuing Education

The Louisiana Conference annual continuing education requirements are as follows: Deacons in full connection, Diaconal Ministers and Certified Professionals are to obtain a minimum of 1 CEU per year with 8 CEU's being required each quadrennium to be audited annually by the Vice Chair of the Division of Deacons and Diaconal Ministers.

Deacons, Diaconal Ministers, and certified professionals employed by a local United Methodist congregation or serving an appointment beyond the local church that provides \$200 or less per year in continuing education funds, may receive funds to cover the registration cost (up to \$350 per year) for a continuing education event in the area of their specialization.

Funding Recipient's Requirements

Apply for funding at least 2 months prior to the educational experience. Applicants will receive funding from the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry through the UM Foundation of Louisiana office or notification of non-approval from the Coordinator of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Submit copies of official grade report, transcript, or official registration form (if continuing education) along with receipts for all expenses for which funds were used **within 10 working days following completion of the education experience** to the Coordinator of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Funding awarded for an education experience which is not attended or completed by the recipient must be returned to the CBOM through our UM Foundation of Louisiana within 2 weeks of the non-attendance or non-completion date.

Important Notes:

Certified professional and deacon track candidates attending seminary part-time may also apply for stipend funds from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for certification and Basic Graduate Theological Study courses.

Adopted by the Div. of Deacons and Diaconal Ministers on September 25, 2004

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