

# Ambassadors' Grant

## How the Ambassadors' Grant Works

Young, gifted, diverse clergy entering the Texas Annual Conference through commissioning, ordination, or transfer will be invited to apply for grants to reimburse seminary tuition and fees. Here's a summary of the process:

- Available funds will be awarded to the most promising applicants.
- Total funds awarded will be equal to the amount actually paid by each recipient for seminary tuition and fees only. Previous scholarships and grants received will be subtracted from the tuition and fee amounts verified by the seminary each recipient attended.
- One fifth of the total funds awarded to each recipient will be paid in August each year for five years, contingent upon service in the Texas Annual Conference, such that each recipient's seminary costs could be reimbursed by their sixth year of conference service.
- To fully fund grants for five students per year, the endowment will require \$2.5 million.

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## Emerging Leaders Initiative

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“The high price of pursuing the Master of Divinity degree inevitably means that we will graduate seminary with some debt. With this debt added to the financial aid that many of us received in our undergraduate institutions, we enter into our first appointments unsure of how or when we will be able to pay off these debts. To receive this grant not only means that we will be able to pay off our financial aid to our theological institutions, but it also shows us that you have invested prayer, time, and resources in us. You have helped to equip us for ministry, and as newly commissioned and appointed pastors, we know that **your investment will bear much fruit.**”

2008 GRANT RECIPIENT

**T**he Ambassadors' Grant is a fund to reimburse seminary tuition and fees incurred by selected young clergy entering the Texas Annual Conference through commissioning, ordination, or transfer. Named after the young clergy who visit young candidates on seminary campuses, the fund serves three purposes.

### *Three Purposes*

1. Relieve the financial burdens of incoming young clergy.
2. Encourage young prospective ministers to begin seminary.
3. Act as an incentive to gifted young students considering service in the Texas Annual Conference.

### **Why Should We Help?**

Seminary tuition and fees alone total an average of \$55,000 per student. Although scholarship funds exist, none specifically seek to address the critical need to encourage young people to prepare for ordained ministry and serve in the Conference.

Most young seminary graduates prepare for ordination with \$20,000 to \$60,000 in debt. Even though

the Conference offers the second highest clergy compensation in the nation, most entering commissioned ministers only receive a salary of approximately \$36,000. After Federal Tax, Social Security, and medical premium withholding, a pastor in a parsonage on this salary will take home approximately \$700 per semi-monthly paycheck. Out of this, they must pay for food, transportation, any other insurance, other personal items for themselves and their families, and their student loans.

We are asking our best and brightest young clergy to live on less than a living wage in order to repay the cost of seminary education.

