



a program of the Missouri United Methodist Foundation

## DWU Practical Church Leadership (PCL) Certificate Program Scholarship Application

Please review all the information contained in this Application and the Program Information on the [Dakota Wesleyan University website](#) to familiarize yourself with the program requirements prior to completing this application. If you have questions before applying, please contact Chris Bouchard, interim director of Clergy & Church Financial Ministry (C2FM) at the Missouri United Methodist Foundation at [cbouchard@mumf.org](mailto:cbouchard@mumf.org). Completed applications must be submitted by March 27 to be considered for July 2026 cohort. Scholarship recipients will be notified by April 25, 2026. (Please attach additional pages as necessary.)

### I. Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Clergy Status

Are you serving under appointment of the Missouri Annual Conference?  Yes  No

*If yes, in what capacity?*

Elder  Deacon  Licensed local pastor  Other  (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Post-high school education (Degree(s) received, year, institution).** Please list all degrees received. If no post-high school education, please provide high school information and the number of semesters completed after high school. (NOTE: If selected to receive this scholarship, you will be required to submit official transcripts to DWU for admission to the program.)

IV. Why do you want to participate in this program?

V. How will the courses and experiences of this program help you improve your ministry or be a better pastor/administrator?

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VI. This program requires a significant time commitment. Have you: (check response)

- Discussed your intent to apply for this program with your District Superintendent (or supervisor, if affiliated organization) and received permission to proceed?
- Discussed your intent to apply for this program with your church leadership?
- I understand that this program includes 21 hours of on-line graduate-level college credit, and I am ready to commit the amount of time it will take to complete the program requirement.
- This program will require travel for two (2) face-to-face gatherings during the year-long program—July 2026 and July 2027. Are you prepared to clear your calendar for these two-day gatherings and make this a priority? (Note that location may require two (2) additional travel days.)
- If you are NOT selected for the July 2026 cohort, would you have interest in being considered for the 2027 cohort?

**VII. I certify that I understand that, if selected for this program, the Missouri United Methodist Foundation will be making a significant financial investment in my education. I also understand if I do not complete the program, the Missouri United Methodist Foundation may submit an IRS Form 1099-MISC to me for the expended costs associated with the program.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The typed name of the Clergy signature submitted electronically is accepted as a signature. Completed applications and additional pages may be emailed to [cbouchard@mumf.org](mailto:cbouchard@mumf.org); or mail the original signed copy of this application and accompanying materials to:

**Chris Bouchard, C2FM Interim Director  
Missouri United Methodist Foundation  
P.O. Box 1076, Columbia, MO 65205-1076**

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## **DWU Practical Church Leadership (PCL) Certificate Program Scholarship Application – Program Information**

Each year, the Missouri United Methodist Foundation is pleased to sponsor several pastors from the Missouri Annual Conference as students in Dakota Wesleyan University's Practical Church Leadership Program. This is a one-year graduate-level certificate program designed to equip pastors with practical administrative expertise in the areas of finance, personnel, management, and stewardship. Participants earn 21 credit hours toward a Masters in Business Administration (MBA).

PCL students participate in online courses with a cohort of peers from other Annual Conferences. Each student is assigned a personal coach to assist with an applied project each semester. The projects apply classroom concepts in the actual parish where the student is currently appointed. In addition, the entire cohort gathers for two face-to-face meetings to share and learn from one another. The entire program is designed with sensitivity to the traditional church calendar and the demands on working clergy.

### **The Challenge Pastors Face Today**

The responsibilities and roles of pastors today are far broader and more complex than they were only a generation ago. In addition to preaching and discipleship, pastors are often asked to lead resource development, personnel management, strategic planning, church communications and other administrative responsibilities.

### **The Answer**

The Practical Church Leadership Program is designed to equip pastors to meet the demand of these expanding administrative expectations.

### **Program Objectives**

- Increase the pastor's capacity and confidence to be an effective church leader and administrator.
- Develop and improve the pastor's and/or the ministry leader's skill in financial stewardship, human resource management, governance, communications, project management and strategic leadership.
- Provide immediate and impactful benefits to local churches through the application of practical course content.
- Create and foster an effective community of practice that advances church leadership through peer networking, applied learning and coaching connections.

### **The Program offers:**

- **Flexibility.** The one-year program is comprised of online courses, individualized coaching and two two-day, face-to-face meetings, all of which are sensitive to the traditional church calendar and allow time for pastors to meet responsibilities at church and classes.
- **Personal Coaching.** Participants are guided by a trained and qualified coach who is matched with them for the duration of the program, supporting them in executing the applied project.
- **Value.** Applied Projects are selected by the pastor, related to course content, and provide direct and demonstrable benefits to the churches they serve while improving personal, administrative and leadership skills.

### **Time Commitment**

- Participants can expect to average 4-6 hours a week in class, completing coursework and executing their Applied Project.
- Coaching meetings occur every other week and average 45 minutes per session.

### **Scholarship Application Process**

**There is limited space in the July 2026 Cohort.** Those who are interested in applying for a scholarship must complete this application and submit it to the Foundation, c/o Chris Bouchard by **March 27, 2026**. Scholarship recipients will be notified by **April 24, 2026**. Questions may be directed to Chris Bouchard, [cbouchard@mumf.org](mailto:cbouchard@mumf.org) or call (573) 268-4440.

**If you are selected to receive a scholarship, then you must:**

- Complete DWU admission application by **May 1, 2026**. Transcripts will be required.

**[Visit the website.](#)**

- Agree to attend the two (2) face-to-face gatherings during the year.
- Complete all online courses within the specified time frame.
- Complete the applied project(s).
- Participate in coaching sessions at mutually agreed-upon times.

**Other Program Details**

Most coursework is online, but participants must travel to face-to-face meetings in Mitchell, South Dakota. The Foundation's financial commitment to each selected clergy is estimated at \$10,000. This includes full tuition and approved travel expenses, such as transportation, hotel and meals for the two gatherings.

The Dakota Wesleyan University curriculum offers 21 graduate credits designed to strengthen pastors' knowledge and abilities in the areas of finance, personnel management, and stewardship. Virtual attendance will be available for the face-to-face gatherings for those with special needs or as travel is restricted due to causes beyond the control of DWU.

*Note: Scholarship funds are available on a limited basis and at the full discretion of the Missouri United Methodist Foundation.*