

**Policy Statement for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region
Lane-Salmon and Scholarship Funds**

Approved: March 19, 2021 by the Commission on Ministry

The Lane Salmon Fund and Scholarship Fund shall be used to support clergy members in good standing with the region for the following purposes:

Clergy Emergency Assistance: The Regional Minister has the authority to approve disbursement of these funds. Assistance grants are limited to no more than \$1,000 and will not be considered more than once every two years per recipient. Preference is to pay bills directly (i.e., direct payment to utility company or counseling office). The Commission on Ministry chair must approve exceptions to the policy in terms of amount or frequency. Confidentiality is maintained in the requests and recipient list to the extent possible.¹

Clergy Education Scholarships: Members of the clergy or students in-care may submit a written application that includes a description of the requested ministry-related program/class/workshop, total cost, and other sources of financial assistance including applicant's contribution. Scholarships of up to the cost of the program/class/workshop not to exceed \$1,000 may be requested. A three-person committee from the Commission on Ministry will review applications. If approved, all or part of the amount requested will be granted. Grants may be repeated by semester or annually for ongoing programs.

- Note: Scholarship funds were received from the Montana Region upon the creation of the Northern Lights Region. These funds are currently held separately from the Lane-Salmon funds. Disbursement requirements as designated by the Montana Region are: *The initial principal of \$5,000 is permanently restricted and may not be invaded. The principal, earnings, and growth of the fund in excess of \$5,000 have been designated by the Regional Board to provide scholarships to students preparing for church related vocations. Such scholarships shall be granted by the Commission on Ministry of the Regional Church. Eighty percent of such earnings and growth of this fund may also be distributed at the discretion of the regional Minister for continuing education scholarships for ministers with standing in the Montana Region.*
- It was understood upon receiving funds that all ministers and students within the Northern Lights Region would be eligible to receive these scholarships (i.e., not restricted to clergy within Montana).²

It will be the practice of the Northern Lights Region to draw from the Scholarship Fund first for scholarships, leaving the bulk of the Lane-Salmon fund for clergy assistance.

Replenishment of Funds: Congregations will be asked to receive a special offering on the occasions of ordinations and installations which will be divided evenly between the Lane-Salmon and Scholarship Funds. An annual notice and invitation to contribute will be made through regional publications each October in connection with Celebration of Ministry month.

¹ Currently, as of March, 2021, there is \$14,458 in this fund.

² Currently, as of March, 2021, there is \$35,336 in this fund.