



Community of Christ

GREATER PACIFIC NORTHWEST USA MISSION CENTER

Discipleship & Leadership Development Assistance Fund - Policy

Investing in individuals to invest in the future of the church.

The primary purpose of this fund is to provide financial assistance to Community of Christ - Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center (GPNW) members and friends, actively engaged in the life of a congregation, who wish to develop further their discipleship and leadership for the benefit of the church. Those that are able to cover all their own costs should not look to this fund for assistance. This fund may be used to offset costs of bringing an instructor to a GPNW learning event.

This fund is intended to partially cover costs associated with participation in, attendance at, or travel to a discipleship and leadership development opportunity. We expect that all participants in development programs will provide a significant portion of their costs. For multi-year learning experiences, GPNW funds scholarships annually, and participants need to re-apply each year. A cap may be established for total approved expenses, depending on demand for funds.

Priority will be given to requests that:

- Demonstrate shared financial commitment by the individual(s) and/or congregation and/or other funding source to offset costs
- Demonstrate the potential for long-lasting, increased contribution to leadership, spiritual, and missional ministry within Community of Christ congregations or communities in the Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center
- Demonstrate new developmental opportunities for the individual applying for assistance, aimed at revitalizing the church in the 21st century
- Are in line with Community of Christ Identity, Message, Mission, and Beliefs, and Enduring Principles
- Are completed and received 60 days before funds are needed

Preferred approved expenses:

- Registration fees ("tuition")

Potentially approved expenses:

- Transportation to/from learning event(s)/retreat(s)
- Lodging at learning event(s)/retreat(s) when no other lodging options are available, e.g., home-stay, retreat campground
- Travel and related expenses for educational events in the GPNW by teachers or facilitators from outside the Mission Center, assigned and approved in advance by the GPNW Mission Center President

Non-approved expenses:

- Food (outside of event registration)
- Books and other resources
- Other expenses not specified above

We encourage travelers to 1) network with destination members to arrange for housing and ground transportation, 2) find the best fares and rates possible, and 3) share rooms and vehicles as much as possible and reasonable.

Directions to Apply for Assistance

1. Complete and submit via email the Discipleship & Leadership Development Assistance Fund - Financial Aid Form at least 60 days before funds are needed, following the instructions on that form. Be sure to attach your reflection (first year) or update (subsequent years).
2. After receiving approval for funds, complete and submit via email the Discipleship & Leadership Development Assistance Fund - Payment Request Form, following the instructions on that form. Be sure to attach a copy of all receipts and a copy of your approval email from the GPNW Adult Formation Minister.