

# WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

## Seminary Loan Guidelines

The Need: The purpose of the Centennial Fund Loans, established in 1992, is to assist persons preparing for pastoral ministry. This fund is a response to the needs of persons who have already incurred debts in order to obtain a college education and may be discouraged from further training for pastoral ministry. This fund is a response to the need of persons with families who desire to further their preparation for pastoral ministry. This fund is a response to the need to support pastors more adequately in clinical training which has in the past been largely funded by health care institutions. This loan fund is meant to supplement scholarship funds available from Mennonite Men of the Plains, Western District Mennonite Women and Western District Leadership Commission.

Who qualifies for Loans: Loans shall be available to persons preparing for pastoral ministry who (1) are members of a Western District Conference church or were baptized in a Western District Conference congregation; (2) who are enrolled in a pastoral ministry degree program in an MCUSA related institution. Exceptions may be made by the Leadership Commission. Loans shall also be available to WDC pastors enrolled in a basic unit of clinical pastoral education in an approved program, or a supervised internship experience.

Loan amount: The loans shall be available toward the total cost of attending seminary, not only for tuition. The amount of the loan will be determined by the Leadership Commission on the basis of funds available but will not exceed a life-time limit of \$3,000. Loans of \$750 shall be available for a basic unit of Clinical Pastoral Education.

Repayment: For each year of service in pastoral ministry in a Mennonite church after completion of the educational program, 20% of the amount of the scholarship will be cancelled. Otherwise the scholarship becomes an interest free loan to be repaid within five years after completion of the educational program. Annual verification of pastoral service to the Western District Conference office will be required.

How to apply: Application is to be made in writing, using the prepared application form. Approval of loans will be given by the Western District Conference Leadership Commission. Applications should be sent to the Conference Minister, Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117.