



## Sustaining Pastoral Excellence – Character Funding Application for Urban, Suburban, Rural, and Other

Credentialed ministers in the Evangelical Covenant Church may be eligible for a grant award to assist in funding training as spiritual directors at an institution ~~per~~ North Park Theological Seminary. This award will be an amount up to \$500 per academic year, for up to two years of a program.

### Part I – Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

**Covenant Credential:**      OWS      OSM      COM      CM      ML      WML      BVL\*

*\*Ministers holding a BVL may be eligible for SPE funds; please review eligibility guidelines and contact Sustaining Pastoral Excellence for more information.*

#### **O l p l a n g t l e n U c p f l p i <'**

Did you pay ministerial dues this year?      yes      no      last year? yes      no

Did you complete your Vocational Growth Tool this year?      yes      no      last year?      yes      no

Have you updated your CovConnect profile within the last three years?      yes      no

#### **Church Information**

Church Serving Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Average Worship Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Church Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Role/Position (ex: Lead Pastor): \_\_\_\_\_

Church Budget: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the term that best describes where you serve:      Urban      Suburban      Rural      Other

**Church Work History** *(begin with current position, moving chronologically backwards):*

Church	Location	Position	Dates

**Academic Information:**

School	Location	Degree	Dates

All applications must be completed and postmarked by one of the following pre-designated dates: February 15, April 1, June 1, August 1, October 1, and December 1. These are the dates that application reviews will begin.

It is expected that all applications will be turned in at least 8 weeks in advance of the expected start date for the Spiritual Direction training for which the grant will be used. For example, if the program is to begin on June 7, the application would need to be submitted by the pre-designated date of April 1.

A response will be given to all applicants within a 21 day period after the pre-designated deadline.

**Part II – Supporting Information**

*Please note that all grant applications benefit in their review process by providing as much information as possible. This means the inclusion of brochures, information on what is being offered and by whom, etc. along with the application. A lack of supporting material may delay a grant response and prompt a request for additional material. If you are not filling this application out online, please attach a sheet with your responses to the following questions.*

1.) What does “pastoral excellence” mean to you? How do you sustain it?

2.) Describe your sense of call into the ministry of spiritual direction. What is the current extent of your giving and/or receiving spiritual direction?

3.) How would you honestly assess your assets and developmental needs relevant to spiritual direction at this point?

4.) Explain your personal experience with discernment. How do you hear God, make a decision, and implement that decision?

5.) What is your understanding of the intent of spiritual direction, and what do you feel are the most important qualifications of a spiritual director?

6.) What is your vision for how spiritual direction will contribute to your growth in Christ and ministry effectiveness?

7.) With whom, and where, do you expect to use your learning?

8.) What training program will you be joining? How did you choose this program? Why?

9.) Amount Requested:

10.) Please provide a detailed narrative breakdown of the amount requested and how the resources will be used.

11.) Will you or your church be contributing resources to supplement any grant monies received? (*Note: Such contributions are not required, but are of interest to the program.*)

Yes, estimated amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ No

12.) If you are approved to receive a Sustaining Pastoral Excellence grant for training as a spiritual director, it will hold the expectation that you will provide spiritual direction for 3 of your ministerial colleagues, free of charge, within the first year after you complete your training. Do you agree to this condition of your potential grant?

Yes No

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Return completed grant application by mail or by fax to:  
**Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Department of the Ordered Ministry**  
**Evangelical Covenant Church 8303 W. Higgins Rd. Chicago, IL 60631**  
Fax: (773) 583-3292 Telephone: (773) 442- 6581 [spe@covchurch.org](mailto:spe@covchurch.org) [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)