



Financial Fortress Initiative Congregation Participation Form

According to district research many pastoral families in the Missionary Church Central District are facing significant economic challenges today. These challenges can impede the effectiveness of their church ministry and testimony in their community. The goal of the Financial Fortress Initiative (FFI) is to (1) measurably raise the economic wisdom of churches (2) help pastors and ministers become practitioners of Biblical wisdom on economic matters and lead parishioners to economic health (3) intervene with practical help and Biblical hope in the lives of pastors who face economic crises (4) position each congregation as a lighthouse of hope for their communities in these faltering economic times. FFI uses economic assessments for churches and pastors, coaching, education and training, consultations, progress self-evaluations via "financial dashboards", and follow up. In addition to increased economic competency and stewardship for pastors and congregational leaders, the Ministerial Excellence Fund has been established with the help of Lilly Endowment who matches local church dollars to provide financial assistance to those pastoral families who are experiencing financial stress or crises and have met certain criteria such as participation in FFI training. In this way, we help churches retain top-quality pastors. The district asks you to prayerfully consider FFI participation by both church and pastor. Forward this confidential application to Brent Clifton, FFI Director as soon as possible.

Church Name and Address _____

Name and Position of Person Completing Form _____

Address _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

List the name and contact information of key congregational leaders who would benefit from FFI such as the church chair, financial secretary, treasurer, or elders.

- (1) We have an interest in our congregational leaders participating in FFI training. _____
- (2) We are nominating our Pastor(s) for participation in: training _____ the excellence fund _____
- (3) Name(s) _____
- (4) Providing matching funds may be required for participating in this program and will work with the district to determine what that amount might be. There are limited scholarship funds available for pastors in churches that cannot provide matching dollars. We are interested in contributing to the matching dollar fund to make this possible in the amount of \$_____. _____
- (5) We authorize FFI volunteers to contact our pastor and key congregational leaders. _____
- (6) Our congregation's district assessment has been paid and is current? ___yes ___no ___uncertain
- (7) Comments or questions concerning our participation in the FFI: _____

Once this application is received additional information will be provided to you by the FFI Director, Brent Clifton, 3282 Mallard Cove, Fort Wayne IN 46804 or preferably via e-mail to brent@centraldistrictmc.org.

Date _____

Signature _____