

FFI Ministerial Excellence Fund Application

The Ministerial Excellence Fund was established by the Central District of the Missionary Church in conjunction with Lilly Endowment to help clergy and strengthen congregations in our district. The fund is part of the Financial Fortress Initiative (FFI) whose goals are (1) to measurably raise the economic competency of congregations (2) to help pastors become practitioners of Biblical wisdom on economic matters (3) to intervene with practical help and biblical hope in the lives of those pastors facing economic crises (4) to position each congregation as a lighthouse of hope in their communities during these faltering economic times. FFI feels that through assessment, education, consultation, progress self-monitoring and follow up coaching, stewardship can be more fully practiced. Ultimately, facing fewer economic distractions can lead to joy and more effective ministry. Assistance is available for expenses arising out of crises caused by unusual circumstances, education, medical and retirement issues. Criteria for receiving assistance is (1) pastors must participate in FFI training as outlined above (2) pastoral families must evidence significant need relative to the general clergy population as shown by hardships and/or a lower income to cost of living index ratio (3) Pastors must be credentialed by The Missionary Church (exceptions will be considered by the Award Committee). The district strongly encourages all clergy to participate in FFI training and encourages clergy who are experiencing significant financial pressure to apply to the Ministerial Excellence Fund. Grants will be awarded as congregations and donors provide matching gifts. More details are provided in the enclosed brochure.

Pastor's Name _____ Title _____ Congregation _____

Credentials ___ Ordained ___ Unrestricted License ___ Restricted License ___ In-Process

Minister Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Dependents _____ Years at Church _____

Years in Vocational Ministry and Positions (attach resume if desired) _____

College and Seminary Education Completed _____

Questions, Answers and Commitments

- (1) I have an interest in participating in the Financial Fortress Initiative training.
- (2) I want to apply for a Ministerial Excellence Fund Grant YES NO. If yes, what created your need?
 circumstances medical/health college/seminary expenses/debt retirement issues
- (3) I've indicated my interest in FFI to my church and my spouse, as applicable.
- (4) I am committed, as is possible, in leading key congregational leaders to participate in FFI programs also.

FFI participants will receive additional information regarding the assignment of an FFI coach, available training and a confidential financial questionnaire that will allow for an assessment of your financial position and will serve as a base-line for education and measuring progress. A preview highlighting the type of information that you will need to gather for your initial meeting can be e-mailed to you upon request. Thanks for your interest in this program. Submit form or questions to Brent Clifton, 3282 Mallard Cove, Fort Wayne IN 46804, Brent@CentralDistrictMC.org.

The best time and method for a FFI Coach to contact you to schedule your initial confidential assessment and planning session is _____.

The FFI Director may desire to approach your church board to explore a possible matching gift to the Ministerial Excellence Fund, please provide the name and contact information for of the person we should contact:

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____.

Participation in FFI training and the Ministerial Excellence Fund are confidential. Disclosure of participation to those beyond the Grant Award Committee, FFI Director and the assigned coach will occur only with your approval.

Date _____ Pastor Signature _____

Date _____ Spouse's Signature _____