



Webinar Highlights: How to Maximize Clergy Financial Health

At a recent webinar hosted by the Initiative, three leaders of the Western North Carolina Conference and UM Foundation (WNC) shared their comprehensive approach that seeks to maximize clergy financial health and literacy throughout the lifespan of pastoral ministry.

WNC's Kim Ingram, Mark King and David Snipes headlined the November webinar, which was designed as a knowledge-sharing event where participants could learn more about conference models and strategies used to promote clergy financial well-being.

WNC has kindly shared a list of the programs and services they use to aid the clergy of the WNC conference. [Click here](#) to download this document.

Additional webinar highlights included the Cal-Nevada, Holston and West Virginia conferences explaining their own strategies to strengthen clergy financial literacy and well-being.

If you would like to watch a replay of the webinar, [click here](#).



The United Methodist Foundation, Inc. (UMF of North Carolina) Launches New Clergy Loan Program

We welcome the UMF of North Carolina as they launch a [clergy debt refinancing program](#). We offer prayers and support as this program continues to develop and offer financial relief to pastors.

The foundation's program was created in partnership with the North Carolina Conference and Wespith out of a desire to help clergy and their families escape paralyzing debt that negatively affects both the individual and their family, as well as relationships within the church family. Our hope is that by providing programs that help clergy refinance their debt, they will find new and healthy opportunities to be stewards of the financial blessings God has provided.

2022-2023 Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship Update

The Initiative is pleased to promote the [Excellence in Clergy Leadership college scholarship](#). This scholarship promotes financial literacy for future Church leaders.



Scholarship recipients receive varying amounts of money because the scholarship is funded by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) and different partner organizations. Possible funding partners include the student's conference and the foundation connected with that conference.

GBHEM, the scholarship administrator, is accepting funding agreement submissions from conferences and foundations until December 1 as it plans for the 2022-2023 Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship program.

GBHEM has committed \$250,000 to funding 100 Excellence scholarships next year, meaning each scholarship recipient will receive at least \$2,500. Conferences and foundations are invited to contribute \$2,500 or more for each of their students that receives a scholarship.

As a condition of the scholarship, recipients are required to meet with an EY financial counselor, which Wespeth facilitates. This year, seminary students who have received the scholarship more than once can fulfill the financial education requirement by completing the [Saving Grace](#) curriculum.

Please contact Allyson Potts, director of loans and scholarships for GBHEM, at apotts@gbhem.org to learn more about being a funding partner.



A Year in Review: Recognizing Financial Literacy Partnerships

In 2021, the Initiative partnered with the following organizations to provide financial literacy resources to the pastors they serve:

- Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation (UMF)
- California-Nevada UMF
- Desert Southwest Conference/Residency In Ministry (RIM) Program
- Holston Foundation
- Mountain Sky Conference/RIM Program
- North Carolina Conference
- Kansas UMF
- Tennessee UMF and Conference
- UMF of New England
- UMF of North Carolina
- UMF of Western North Carolina
- Wisconsin UMF
- West Virginia Conference.

We celebrate these partnerships and the lives they have impacted!



Questions For You to Ponder

In a survey completed by 1,000 individuals attending financial literacy training events supported by this Initiative, only 55% reported that their attorney or family members know the location of their personal financial and estate plan documents. How would you respond to this question and what steps can you take to improve your personal financial well-being? How do you think pastoral leaders in your conference, seminary or congregation would respond to this question?

UMC Clergy Financial Well-Being Initiative

For more information about this initiative and clergy financial well-being resources, visit:
<https://www.wespath.org/for-plan-sponsors/UMC-clergy-financial-well-being>

**Successfully expanding financial literacy depends on strategic collaboration.
We look forward to working with you in 2021.**

Connected in Christian Service,

Dale Jones, *Wespath Project Director*
David Bell, *Project Chair*

Bonnie Marden, *Project Manager*
Lisa Greenwood, *NAUMF Executive Director*

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If you do not wish to receive future editions of the Clergy Financial Well-Being Initiative newsletter, please e-mail clergyfinance@wespath.org.