



Dakotas Conference
The United Methodist Church



Grow. Reach. Heal.

The Dakotas Conference vision is for all congregations to live out Jesus' call to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.

Long-term Renewal Formational Plan Guidelines

(Formational and Spiritual Growth Leave, BOD 351.3)

To apply for this funding, you must submit a detailed explanation of your intentions. This plan must include:

Name:

Church(es):

Expected Dates of Long-term Renewal:

Section 1

Write a narrative describing the intended foci of your Long-term Renewal. Respond with your intentions and plans to include all of the areas below. You are encouraged to remain open to the Spirit knowing that plans may change, and opportunities may arise that call to you in a new way. Your plan guides the renewal and growth experiences.

- Rest, Relaxation, Renewal
Examples: Start or re-engage a hobby; Begin attending yoga classes; Travel to visit a "bucket list" location.
- Spiritual Renewal
Examples: Participate in a spiritual retreat; Engage a spiritual director; Establish new spiritual practices.
- Professional Growth and Continuing Education
Examples: Participate in a leadership class; Read, write, and journal.
- Relationship Care and Connection
Examples: Planned time with partner/spouse and/or children; Gather with college or seminary companions and friends; Spend time with an aging family member.

Section 2

Answer the following two questions:

1. How will your intentions and plans benefit you personally?
2. How will your intentions and plans benefit your ministry?

Section 3

An established timeline is essential for transparency and communicating with the congregation, leaders, and team providing coverage. Provide a timeline for the following items:

- Complete Formational Plan
- Review Formational Plan with the district superintendent
- Review Formational Plan with SPRC/church leadership
- In collaboration with church leadership, develop a plan to provide pastoral coverage during the Long-term Renewal
- Identify individuals to handle pastoral coverage responsibilities
- Apply for Long-term Renewal grant to support the Formational Plan (if desired)
- Apply for, or guide church leader to apply, for the Pastoral Coverage grant (if needed)
- Share the Formational Plan and pastoral coverage plan with the church
- Meet with all involved in providing pastoral coverage to review the plan and responsibilities
- In collaboration with church leadership, plan a blessing for sending off and welcoming interim leadership
- Upon return, meet with all involved providing pastoral coverage for ministry update
- Upon return, meet with SPRC/church leadership to share experiences and outcomes; provide a short-written summary of the outcomes to the Grant Review Team