



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.

Ministerial Student Aid Resources

The Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation and GBHEM offer student aid for certified candidates through Seminary and Course of Study Loan/Grants, Merit Scholarships, and Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarships, as well as debt reduction relief for new clergy within the conference. For current student guidelines, click [here](#) or contact the [Leadership Development Office](#).

The following programs are available:

[Seminary Loan/Grant](#) – offered through the Dakotas Conference. Yearly max \$2,000; lifetime max of \$6,000; \$2,000 forgiven per years of service.

[Debt Reduction Grant](#) – offered through the Dakotas Conference to clergy after appointment. Yearly max \$1,000; lifetime max of \$6,000.

[Course of Study/Kairos Loan/Grant](#) – offered through the Dakotas Conference. Yearly max \$2,000; lifetime max \$9,000; \$2,000 forgiven per years of service.

[Merit Scholarship](#) – offered through the Dakotas Conference and the Dakotas Foundation. Amount dependent upon number of applicants and amount of funds available. Application deadline is April 1. In 2018, over \$100,000 was awarded. Students may reapply each year they are enrolled.

[Student Debt Reduction Grant](#) – funds are provided by the Lilly Endowment and awarded to Dakotas-Minnesota Area students. Up to \$5,000 annually, renewable up to three years total. Read guidelines [here](#).

[Seed and Save Grant](#) – funds for this Dakotas-Minnesota Area grant are provided by the Lilly Endowment for this \$1,000 one-time grant. Read guidelines [here](#).

[Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship](#) – offered through GBHEM.org. Amount awarded from \$2,000 - \$12,500. Application deadline is March 9. *(Although the Dakotas Conference is not a participating donor, the required matching funds will be donated by the Lilly Endowment.)*