

**NATIONAL PLAN FOR HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY  
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS  
INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church approved a focus on Hispanic/Latino pastoral leadership development as one of the four major goals for the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the current Quadrennium. This grant program is designed for United Methodist seminaries and related entities (i.e. institutions, training centers). The program is administered through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), in collaboration with the Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministry, which is overall responsible for the National Plan.

These grants seek to develop programs (i.e. mentoring programs) which provide support and nurture for Hispanic/Latino students and teach them parish models of ministry. They also should serve as a vehicle for recruiting Hispanic/Latino students to attend United Methodist related colleges, universities, and seminaries.

**THE GOAL OF THE PASTORAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS**

- Increase the number of Hispanic/Latino ministerial students in United Methodist related colleges, universities, and seminaries.
- Seek alternative models for the equipping of Hispanic/Latino candidates and pastors in partnership with UMC seminaries, institutions and training centers.<sup>1</sup>

**GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS**

1. Proposed program should be based on a local and regional needs assessment.
2. Proposed programs shall be consistent with the National Plan's (action-reflection-transformation) methodology and missiological principles as well as the goals of the grant program.
3. Proposed programs shall be creative, pertinent, on-going, new pilot model-programs for the practice of Hispanic ministries, and not simply an isolated, one-time event or current on-going programs.
4. Proposals should demonstrate how the proposed program will be continued at the end of the grant period.
5. Grant funds may be utilized for honoraria, stipends, or to assist student participation. Grant funds shall not be used for scholarships to attend seminary, capital funds, research, or existing programs or projects of the seminaries or training centers.

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<sup>1</sup> There are several regional training centers associated with the National Hispanic/Latino Plan, including the Lay Academy for Faith Community Development in Northern Illinois and the Mexican American Program at Perkins School of Theology.

6. Proposals that demonstrate collaboration among two or more United Methodist seminaries, training centers, or institutions will be given priority.
7. It is expected that all proposals reflect a 1:1 ratio of matching funds (not simply in-kind contributions) from the seminary or other training institution to assure the institution's commitment to Hispanic/Latino ministries.
8. The maximum amount granted per proposal shall be \$7 5,000.00 and shall be disbursed over a two to three year period. It shall be considered a one time grant. Proposals shall include a budget for each year of the requested funding and a description of how grant funds will be utilized.
9. All funded projects are subject to an annual review/evaluation and reapproval according to the criteria established by the GBHEM and the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry Office. Grantees must submit an annual report of the funded programs along with a letter requesting reapproval of funding for each subsequent year.
10. Grant dollars will only be released when it is certain a project or projects will be implemented (i.e. other sources of funds are assured, personnel is available, etc.)
11. All unused funds shall be returned to GBHEM at the end of the grant period.

#### GRANT PROCEDURES AND PROCESS

Inquiries and requests for grants may be made in writing by interested seminary staff or faculty either to Dr. May Ann Moman, in the Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry or to National Hispanic Plan Office.

Disbursement will follow the guidelines of Higher Education and Ministry.

All proposals shall be reviewed by the staff of the GBHEM and by the Coordinator of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

A report of the staff recommendations shall be made to the Executive Committee of the Committee on the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry for its action and final recommendation.

The GBHEM staff shall receive notification of the action and final recommendation of the Executive Committee shall proceed to disburse the grant funds according to GBHEM's guidelines and procedures.

Annual progress/evaluation reports shall be submitted to the GBHEM along with a request for reapproval before additional funds are released. Reports shall be shared with the Committee on the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

A final report shall be submitted to the GBHEM, to be shared with the Committee on the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry.