

# Classis Georgetown Clergy Health and Flourishing Initiative Funding Application

## **Background**

In 2024, the Vision Team of Classis Georgetown recognized an opportunity in the face of declining student fund requests and a growing student fund. Building on the continuing education encouragement values expressed by Synod 2000<sup>1</sup> and 2016<sup>2</sup>, the Vision Team developed the *Clergy Health and Flourishing Initiative* for Classis Georgetown Pastors. This proposal was approved by the Vision Team in August 2024 and approved by Classis over the course of two meetings<sup>3</sup>.

## **Summary**

Classis Georgetown affirmed the Synodical values that congregations and pastors benefit when pastors are continually learning and professionally growing. Classis Georgetown approved four recommendations related to Clergy Health and Betterment:

1. Classis will annually financially support up to 75% of the costs of an accredited CPE program for Classis Georgetown Pastors.
2. Classis will annually provide up to \$2500 for pastors to participate in *conferences, seminars or coaching* after a congregation has invested \$2500 in its pastor's continuing education efforts.
3. Classis will provide up to \$2500 for Pastors' sabbaticals after a congregation has invested at least \$3500 in its pastor's sabbatical (these funds are to be applied to learning opportunities or expenses related to the Pastor's sabbatical, not for staffing, pulpit supply, or administrative costs in the pastor's absence).
4. Classis affirmed the value of congregations and councils encouraging their pastor(s) to nourish good physical, emotional, and spiritual health strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> Synod 2000 established a policy that all councils should develop a Continuing Education policy for its ministry staff (20 hours per week or more) as a means to encourage ongoing, professional development. The components included \$1200 annually and 10 days annually (not included in vacation time). [www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/continuinged.pdf](http://www.crcna.org/sites/default/files/continuinged.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Synod 2016 approved a "far-reaching new initiative for continuing education for pastors." "From this decision, a new committee was charged with creating a continuing education website for pastors, encouraging pastors and local church to develop learning covenants with their pastors, developing continuing education resources and requirements, and more." <https://www.crcna.org/news-and-events/news/synod-approves-continuing-education-initiative>

<sup>3</sup> October 20, 2024 and February 20, 2025

# **Classis Georgetown Clergy Health and Flourishing Initiative Funding Application**

**1. Date of Request** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Name of Classis Georgetown Church** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Name of Pastor** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Type of Support Requested:** *(check all that apply)*

☐ **CPE Program** (up to 75% program costs)

☐ **Conferences, Seminars, or Coaching** (up to \$2500 once the church has a \$2500 investment).

☐ **Sabbatical support** (up to \$2500 once the church has a \$3500 investment)

**5. Funding Support Request Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Please briefly describe what the Classis investment will be going toward and how it will benefit the Pastor's personal or professional growth.**

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7. For funding support types 2 and 3, can the church and Pastor demonstrate that the congregation has met the appropriate investment thresholds for the Pastor's ongoing growth? What is the *primary* use of the expenditure of the church's \$2500/\$3500 investment in the pastor?
8. Following the completion of CPE, the continuing education or sabbatical event, is the Pastor willing to provide either a written or verbal summary for the Classis of the things learned or gained as a result of the Classis investment?
9. Are there any other details you would like to know as you make your request?

10. To what entity should the Classis issue a check? \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Church Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### For Vision Team use

Date received \_\_\_\_\_

Date reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date Payment Issued \_\_\_\_\_