The United Reformed Church

Ministries
The United Reformed Church
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

Guidelines for Education for Ministry Phase 2

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 2

Who is eligible?

Financial support towards Education for Ministry (phases 2 and 3) is available for Ministers of Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers who are considered active if they are on the URC Roll of Ministers and at least one of the following criteria applies if :

- they are in a pastorate or post for which they are receiving a stipend (either full or part) from the United Reformed Church (eg deployed post, SCM or pioneering post, Assembly appointment) under the Plan for Partnership;
- they are in non-stipendiary service in a recognised ministry post;
- they are exercising a ministry with another organisation within the gift of the church to the wider church to which they have been inducted by the URC where possible (eg chaplaincy, educational establishment, ecumenical body) and for which they receive a stipend, salary or serve in a voluntary capacity;

What can grants be used for?

It is expected that by the end of EM2, a minister's learning is predominantly self-managed, in dialogue with relevant Synod Officers and RCL staff, alongside people in their places of ministry. There is an EM2 grant available to each EM2 Minister. This can be accessed through a conversation with the Synod EM2 Officer and by filling in the relevant form. The grant is £350 per year (Jan-Dec). If ordination happens in the Summer, the EM2 Minister can access £175 for the rest of that year. When moving onto EM3, if that occurs mid-year, 50% of EM2 grant and 50% of EM3 grant can be applied for. The Summer Retreat cost is met from the Ministries budget.

An EM2 Minister will not normally undertake formal study for an accredited qualification without the agreement of the appropriateness of the level and scope and content. The Synod EM2 Officer will consult the Minister's EM1 RCL Principal before approving any course of study. Exceptionally, a Minister's EM1 Training Recommendation may specify studies that extend into their EM2 period which will be overseen by the relevant RCL.

The purpose of EM2 is to develop ministry through work-related practical training, educational, spiritual, and professional development, and on very rare occasions, specialist equipment. Grants may be used, each year, for retreat style learning subject to the agreement of the designated Synod Officer responsible for EM3. Grants can only be given for these purposes.

Development serves the Church's calling, not simply the minister's enrichment. Applicants will need articulate how the learning will serve the theological, vocational, and missional rationale for the proposed professional development. It is not primarily about personal interest or academic curiosity, but about how the Church's ministry is strengthened through this learning. In other words, how does this activity

- Enhance their current or anticipated ministry
- Address an identified development need
- Support the mission and priorities of the URC

Therefore, every request will be subject to an 'application to ministry' test. Applicants must show that the learning for which they are seeking funding has a direct bearing on the ministry which they are currently exercising or which they are preparing to exercise in future.

Grants are unlikely to be authorised for attendance at church assemblies, general church conferences, network meetings or meetings of organisations unless there is a training element or unless it is a one-off to test if such an event would support future ministry. If the latter is the case, future attendance would be funded by either the place of ministry or the minister.

Grants of £125 (half the £300) can also be used for reading weeks to buy books.

Grants should not be used for the same event annually as they are given for the minister to explore a variety of learning opportunities.

How are grants paid?

Your Synod EM2 Officer will work with you to plan your learning, funding and filling in the relevant forms.

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Person Responsible for Reviewing: DGS (Ministries)