

Policy for the Joseph Slaydon Memorial Fund for Education – Mission Rivers District Board of Ordained Ministry

Article I Purpose

In his will, Joseph Slaydon wrote: “It is my feeling that the role of the ministry is vital to the life of the Methodist Church. I therefore give unto the United Methodist Church, Peninsula District, the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000) and direct that such money be used for providing assistance to and otherwise enhancing the education of deserving men and women in their educational efforts towards the Methodist ministry, whether such education be in college, seminary, divinity school, or some similar educational institution, it being my intent to encourage the education and training of ministers of the Methodist Church.”

Article II History

A short history:

In 1992, Joseph Slaydon left \$100,000 to the Peninsula District as described in his will. Based on the estate at the time of his death, the district received about 97% of the stated gift. The following is a list of checks received from the estate:

January 1993	\$ 50,000.00
April 1993	45,000.00
June 1993	1,777.63
Total	\$ 96,777.63

The Peninsula District then added \$3,222.37 from the Administrative Fund to the Slaydon fund to bring the account to \$100,000.

In 2011, in accordance with Book of Discipline, the Bishop and the Virginia Annual Conference consolidated several districts and redrew district boundaries.

The Peninsula District was merged with portions of the Rappahannock, Portsmouth and Richmond Districts to form the Mission Rivers District. In 2023, the York River and Rappahannock River Districts joined to become the Mission Rivers District. The Mission Rivers District is the ecclesial and legal successor judicatory to the Peninsula District and administers all resources and policies previously held by it.

Article III Eligibility

Any person whose church membership or pastoral appointment is within the bounds of Mission Rivers District and who is a certified candidate for ministry in the Virginia Annual Conference may apply for assistance with his/her educational endeavors including undergraduate degree, master’s programs, Course of Study or licensing school. Furthermore, ordained or licensed clergy appointed on the Mission Rivers District may apply for assistance in educational costs for up to but not to exceed the currently required number of annual Continuing Education Units. CEU money may be requested no more than once a quadrennium per clergyperson or local pastor.

Article IV Application

Persons may apply for the funds using the Application found in Appendix A. Applications are due April 1 and September 1 each year for consideration. They are to be turned in to the Mission Rivers District Office, attention to DCOM.

Article V Meetings

The District Committee on Ordained Ministry will receive the applications for the funds. After reviewing the applications, the DCOM will make any recommendations to the District Superintendent for the disbursement of the funds after meeting in April/May and September/October.

Article VI Criteria

Priority for scholarships will be given to colleges, seminary, licensing school or Virginia Conference or UMC sponsored educational events.

Article VII Guidelines for Fund Distribution

All distributions will be given directly to the educational institution or CEU/licensing provider. No funds will be made out to an individual person as the recipient.

Funding for a degree, either bachelors or masters, or for the Course of Study, will not exceed \$1,000.00 annually or an aggregate of \$4,000.00.

Funding for attending licensing school or CEU will not exceed one half of the cost of the program or \$500.00, whichever is less.

The DCOM will monitor fund performance via investment portfolio information from The United Methodist Foundation, as well as demand on this resource at least annually. If at any time the DCOM discerns a need to limit funding based on the performance of the invested funds or specified needs based on volume of requests, it may take such action.

Article VIII Accounting

An annual audit in accordance with the Discipline will be arranged by the Mission Rivers District Office and reported to the annual District Conference.

(Revised & approved 2/14/2019)

APPLICATION FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION FUNDING
Joseph Slaydon Ministerial Fund, Mission Rivers District

Scholarships from The Joseph Slaydon Ministerial Fund for Education are available to any person whose church membership or pastoral appointment is within the bounds of Mission Rivers District and who is a certified candidate for ministry in the Virginia Annual Conference may apply for assistance with his/her educational endeavors including undergraduate degree, master's programs, Course of Study or licensing school. Furthermore, ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergy appointed on the Mission Rivers District may apply for assistance with educational costs for up to but not to exceed the currently required number of annual Continuing Education Units. CEU money may be requested no more than once a quadrennium per clergyperson.

Part I: Personal Information

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City, St Zip _____

Base Salary (determines amount of scholarship) _____ Phone _____

Relationship to Mission Rivers District _____ Charge _____

Part II: Degree or Continuing Education Event For Which Assistance Is Requested

Name of degree/event _____ Date(s) of degree/event _____

Location _____ # of CEU's _____

Part III: Expenses

Tuition _____ Meals _____ Lodging _____ Travel _____ Other _____ **Total** _____

Amount your local church budget contains for continuing education _____

Amount from local church budget being used for this event _____

Other funding and amount that is being used for this degree/event _____

Part IV: Request for Financial Assistance

Amount requested from Joseph Slaydon Ministerial Fund for Education for this event _____

Date funds are needed _____ Check payable to _____

Name and full address to whom check should be mailed:

I agree that this debt will be satisfied upon receipt of the earned degree or CEU. I further agree that if I do not earn the degree or CEU credit for this event, I will return the scholarship amount in full.

Signature of Applicant _____

Return completed application to:
**Mission Rivers District Office, 6515 George Washington Memorial Highway, Suite 203,
Yorktown, VA 23692**

Amount previously granted _____

10/2017

12/2023

Amount Approved _____

Date _____