

Leadership Development Partnership Grant (LDPG)

Application Package

Phase One | April 2023

INTRODUCTION

Leadership Development is one of four priorities identified in the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP) of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (CCMBC). The Leadership Development Partnership Grant (LDPG) is a coordinated approach of streamlining national and provincial assets to strengthen the development of leaders called into ministry-related work.

God is the one who calls and ultimately equips people to the work of ministry. We also believe that churches participate in the calling process by affirming, encouraging, and resourcing those being called. The LDPG is a collaborative effort by multiple organizations to release financial resources that will provide current and emerging leaders with the means to develop further ministry knowledge, experience, and skills. The LDPG comes alongside the local church in several significant ways by

- providing avenues of connectivity between a local church and institutions or programs that deliver leadership development resources,
- leveraging the partnerships of national/provincial conferences, agencies, and churches to provide aid and resources to ministry leaders, and
- identifying, highlighting, and supporting new leaders within our denomination.

PURPOSE

Qualified students seeking education and training in ministry-related fields are eligible to receive LDPG funding toward course tuition that matches their own financial contribution. The LDPG is anchored in the following five values:

- **Church Centered:** The LDPG will be granted at the request of local churches who have identified potential leaders and are committed to supporting their development. The expectation is for each local church to initiate the process and for the LDPG recipient to provide ongoing ministry service within this local MB church while benefiting from the LDPG.
- **Denominationally Directed:** The LDPG is meant to be a coordinated denominational approach to supporting leadership development. This effort mobilizes all members of the CUSP as partners in leadership development. This is the first step towards a more unified approach of leadership development.

- **Pathway Oriented:** The LDPG is more than a funding strategy for students; it is designed to support the ongoing growth of leaders. To do this best, relational and organizational efforts must be established to provide healthy and intentional opportunities for future development.
- **Lifelong Commitment:** As part of an integrated leadership development strategy, the LDPG values continued support throughout the ministry life of a leader. Continued education, skill-developing courses, and other ministry training are included in the goal of this program.
- **Anchored in Disciple-Making:** Our mission is “to cultivate a community and culture of healthy disciple-making churches and ministries, faithfully joining Jesus in his mission.” In keeping with our mission, we will only fund courses or programs that further propel this mission. Careful analysis and qualification are needed to vet programs and courses for LDPG funding.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

The following educational institutions are eligible participants in Phase One of the LDPG for the 2023/24 academic year.

- **MB Seminary**
 - The national seminary of the CCMBC has its administrative offices in Langley, B.C. and offers graduate certificate and degree options through Teaching Churches, online, and through its partnership with three denominational seminaries (ACTS Seminaries).
 - LDPG funding toward course tuition will come from the student (25%), their supporting MB church (25%), CCMBC (25%), and MB Seminary (25%).
 - Students receiving the LDPG are eligible to receive funding toward their course tuition up to a maximum of \$7,500 per calendar year (a maximum of \$2,500 per partner per calendar year). If an LDPG student chooses to enrol in additional courses that would exceed the maximum annual amount, the LDPG would not apply toward the tuition of those courses.
 - LDPG recipients will not be eligible for general Financial Aid awards at MB Seminary, but they may be eligible for other endowed bursaries.
- **Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) – MB GTE Track**
 - The MB GTE track offered by CMU through its Graduate School of Theology and Ministry, is located in Winnipeg, MB. It is a partnership between the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba (MBCM), CMU, CCMBC, and MB Seminary.
 - LDPG funding has not yet been determined.
- **École de théologie évangélique de Québec (ETEIQ)**

- ETEQ, located in Montreal, Quebec, provides graduate theological education.
- LDPG funding has not yet been determined.

ELIGIBILITY

MB Students in Canada Pursuing Seminary or Graduate Studies

To be eligible for the LDPG, an individual

- Must be accepted and enrolled in a graduate degree program at a participating MB school in Canada. There are three options: MB Seminary, CMU through the MB GTE Track, and MB students studying at ETEQ.
- Must be a member in good standing at an MB church in Canada for at least six months prior to the date of the application.
- Must be active in volunteer or paid ministry in this same MB church.
- Must complete a discernment process with the pastor and congregation in this same MB church. (Note: CCMBC will rely upon the collective discernment process of the local church and the MB school to determine a student's eligibility for LDPG funding.)
- Must intend to pursue pastoral ministry, cross-cultural ministry, or professional Christian service with the Mennonite Brethren upon graduation.
- Must achieve a passing grade in all courses funded by the LDPG and must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50.

International Pastor Training Grant (available via ICOMB and MB Seminary)

International students may qualify for the International Pastor Training Grant that is awarded to current pastors and those in training from the ICOMB community for education through MB Seminary. Students must be recommended by both their local MB church and ICOMB. Upon these recommendations, students should contact MB Seminary directly to initiate the application process.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Requirements

Before applying for the LDPG, prospective students are required to complete a discernment process with their supporting church.

Step 1 – Supporting Church Discernment Process

- Affirm the student as outlined in the LDPG Discernment Process for the Supporting Church document.
- Acknowledge publicly to the congregation the discernment process and affirm the call to ministry for the student (e.g., announcement, newsletter, website).
- Commit to support the student and provide the church's financial contribution to the appropriate school/institution by their corresponding deadline (i.e., add/drop date, payment deadline, etc.).

The student is required to:

- Prepare a personal profile as described in Step 2 of the LDPG Student Responsibilities.
- Participate in the discernment process with their supporting church as described in Step 2.
- Submit a completed application package as outlined in Step 3.

Step 2 – Application Process

This process can begin up to one year prior to school enrolment. LDPG application documents are available on the [Leadership Development](#) page of the CCMBC website.

- The supporting church and candidate review the application details to confirm eligibility.
- The supporting church and candidate complete the LDPG discernment process.
- The supporting church and candidate complete their respective sections of the LDPG application package and the candidate submits the completed application to CCMBC. Applications will be reviewed once all required documentation has been submitted and processed in the order in which they were received (first come, first serve).
- If the application is approved, the CCMBC will confirm LDPG approval by sending copies of the acceptance letter to the candidate, their supporting church, and the participating school. LDPG approval is conditional upon the stipulations outlined in the acceptance letter.

New Application Deadlines:

- Fall Semester: June 30, 2023
- Winter/Spring Semester: September 30, 2023
- Summer Semester: January 31, 2024

New applications received after these deadlines may not be processed in time before the first semester.

Step 3 – LDPG Renewal

Students who wish to continue in the LDPG program for more than one year must complete the renewal application form. These forms are available on the [Leadership Development](#) page of the CCMBC website. Students should begin the renewal process in the spring to meet the submission deadline of August 15.