

The **Center for Ministry** offers continuing education and spiritual formation opportunities for church leaders, both clergy and lay. Learners from all denominations and faith traditions are invited to develop their gifts through this shared ministry of Millsaps College and the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church. Founded in 1999, the Center for Ministry is located in Jackson, Mississippi.

Pastoral Excellence Project

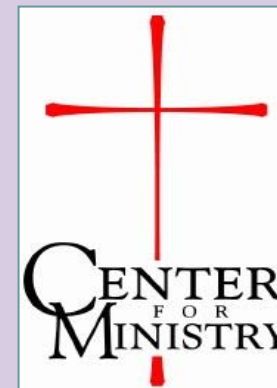
Mississippi clergy have strengthened their leadership abilities by deepening their spiritual lives through the Center for Ministry's Pastoral Excellence Project (PEP) since 2002.

With continuation funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. through its Sustaining Pastoral Excellence initiative, PEP is moving into a new phase of equipping religious leaders for excellent leadership within their ministry settings. For a complete listing of Pastoral Excellence Project offerings, visit www.centerforministry.com.



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Jackson, MS 39210

CENTER FOR MINISTRY



NEW WINESKINS GRANTS

2009 – 2012 Funding

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins.”

(Mark 2:22 NKJV)





AN INVITATION TO CLERGY PEER GROUPS

Jesus' proverbial wisdom reminds us of the need to create space in our lives for the transformation that comes with spiritual and intellectual growth. The Center for Ministry Pastoral Excellence Project offers New Wineskins Grants to clergy peer groups to assist them in making room for the expanded visions of God, life, and ministry that emerge as they engage with each other.



Small groups of ministers who gather regularly for spiritual formation, fellowship, support, and/or study may apply for one-time project funding of up to \$5,000. Eligible group projects must show potential for building community among group members while building upon gifts for ministry within them.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants for New Wineskins funding **must be** peer groups that

- include no fewer than five and no more than twelve ordained clergy
- formed at least 12 months prior to submitting a proposal
- met no fewer than five times in the 12 months preceding the application
- do not include in their membership current participants in other PEP programs or Center for Ministry board members, staff, or adjunct staff

A group may only receive funding one time from the New Wineskins program. Groups with racial, gender, and/or denominational diversity will receive priority consideration. Individual applicants are not eligible for New Wineskins Grants.

Eligible Projects

New Wineskins grants fund activities that enhance the covenantal life of the group while developing leadership skills that benefit the

ministry settings of individual group members. Project activities may center upon one of the following themes:

journey—travel to a locale with spiritual significance or one that models an innovative approach to ministry

presence—participation in conferences or workshops, seminars or webinars that focus on spiritual formation, leadership development, or that enrich a particular area of ministry

consultation—gathering with a scholar or practitioner who offers in-depth insight about some facet of ministry

retreat—time apart devoted to nurturing communal and individual relationships with God

learning—intentional study involving individual and group reflection upon books, audio-visual, or electronic media designed to expand knowledge of some aspect of spiritual formation or ministry

If the above descriptions do not capture the essence of your proposed project, please consult with Sherry Johnson at the Center for Ministry before beginning your grant application.

SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL

Center for Ministry staff reviews grant applications during the first week of each month. Within 30 days after a proposal is submitted the contact person for the group will receive notification about whether funding is granted. To insure the timely availability of funds, potential grantees are encouraged to submit proposals at least two months before the starting date of the project.

To receive more information and an application, contact:

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