



Funding Continuing Education

Suggestions for Funding Continuing Education:

Most continuing education opportunities come with a financial cost. Our goal is to continue to develop this document to include more possibilities for funding. If you have any suggestions, let us know by contacting [Thrive](#).

General Information

Council Policies: Synod 2000 of the CRCNA approved a proposal which urges all councils (a) to establish a policy for continuing education, (b) to establish the expectation that their pastor(s) and ministry staff annually engage in an appropriate program of continuing education for ministry, and (c) to hold ministers and other ministry staff accountable for obtaining continuing education and for the content of the programs. This accountability is to be based on clear criteria adopted by the council in consultation with the minister(s) and ministry staff (Acts of Synod 2000, p. 681). When a call is extended to ministry staff, the call letter should address this matter and offer encouragement and expectation to continue to learn and grow through intentional participation in continuing education.

Council Resources: Synod recommended that each council set aside adequate funds for continuing education of ministry staff. Synod quantified the recommendation by stating that approximately ten days (not vacation time) and \$1,200.00 be set aside each year for this purpose for each ministry staff person. As this option may not be reasonable for some congregations, it may be necessary for classis and the denomination to provide assistance in financing programs of continued learning (Acts of Synod 2000, p. 681).

Denominational & Classical CE Funds:

A denominational fund has been established and has offered modest grants for a number of years to encourage and enable ministry staff to engage in continuing education. Not all congregations have equal resources. Small and less financially established congregations and their pastors are as much in need of continuing education as larger, more financially stable congregations. Ministry Shares support these grants. Each Classis also has the option of establishing a fund for this purpose.

Grants

- **[Vital Worship Grants Program](#)**: Serving congregations, parishes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other worshipping communities in North America. The Vital Worship Grants Program at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship seeks to foster vital worship in congregations, parishes, and other worshipping communities in North America. This grants program is especially focused on projects that connect public worship to intergenerational faith formation and Christian discipleship, a theme that can unfold in many facets of worship from Bible reading to preaching to Baptism and Lord's Supper, intercessory prayer, congregational song, visual arts, and more.
- **[Peer Learning Grant](#)**: These are administered by Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, a program of Thrive. Peer Learning (PL) Group Grants offer pastors an opportunity to gather for learning, support, prayer, encouragement, and fellowship. Pastors are free to plan all aspects of their time together: who the group members will be, what topic they'll pursue, when to meet, what books they'll read, and if they'd like to attend a conference, have a retreat, or neither. Since the groups create their own plan, no two groups are alike.

At one time CRC Continuing Education Grants were available to individual pastors, providing up to \$750 in support of pastors' continuing education. The funding for that program expired after the June 2023 grant application deadline, and these grants are no longer available.