

PENSION FUND OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

2011-12 STUDENT GIFT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AND APPLICATION

Background and Purpose

The Student Gift Membership Program ("Program") was established in 1953. The Program is designed to assist students preparing for ministry by introducing them early to the benefits of membership in the Pension Plan of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A student who participates in the Program and enrolls as a member in the Pension Plan will be eligible for valuable financial protection in the form of: (1) a retirement pension; (2) a disability benefit; and (3) death benefits payable to a spouse, children and/or family. All of these benefits form a strong foundation of support for a member in the time of need, and are in recognition of the services and commitment students make to the churches and related church organizations they serve and are preparing to serve.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Program, an applicant must satisfy the following criteria:

1. be a current student at an accredited theological education institution seeking a Masters of Divinity degree;
2. have completed at least 18 credit hours toward the Masters of Divinity degree;
3. be enrolled in the institution at least six credit hours per term (special consideration will be given for certain degree requirements that require intensive/focused ministry related instruction, such as CPE);
4. be a Disciples of Christ student "under care" of a recognized region/ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and
5. fully participate in the Ministry-Life Choices for Seminarians.¹

Participation in the Program is approved for a 12 month period, and can be renewed for up to three separate 12 month periods, for a total of 36 months of participation.

Terms of Membership in Pension Plan

A participant in the Program will become a member in the Pension Plan, and dues equal to \$70.00 per month will be contributed to the Pension Plan on behalf of the member based on a deemed salary of \$500 per month [14% multiplied by \$500 equals \$70 monthly dues payment]. Dues made on behalf of a member under the Program will be in addition to dues, if any, made for the member to the Pension Plan by his or her employing church or church-related institution.

A member will vest in the dues made under the Program to the Pension Plan when the member: (1) has been ordained; and (2) is employed full-time by a church or church-related organization that is eligible to participate in the Pension Plan; and (3) is an active member in the Pension Plan through such employment; provided, however, that the member must satisfy the above vesting criteria by not later than the earlier of (A) one year following the date of ordination or (B) five years following the date participation in the Program first began. If the member does not timely

¹ Ministry-Life Choices for Seminarians is a clergy health and wellness initiative of the Pension Fund to provide practical skills, including managing church and personal finances, personal ministry, etc. Please see the Ministry-Life Choices for Seminarians guide for additional information.

This Program is effective September 1, 2010, and replaces the previous Student Gift Membership Program.

meet this vesting criteria, all dues made under the Program on behalf of that member will be forfeited. However, a member in the Pension Plan will at all times be eligible for death and disability benefits pursuant to the terms of the Pension Plan, regardless of whether fully vested in the dues made under the Program.

Application Deadline

The application deadline for the fall semester is September 30, 2011 and for the spring semester is February 28, 2012. The following supporting documentation must be submitted with the application by the applicable deadline:

1. certification from an authorized official of the theological education institution certifying that the applicant is currently enrolled at least six credit hours per term and, for the initial application only, has completed at least 18 credit hours of the Master of Divinity degree requirements; and
2. certification from a recognized region/ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that the applicant is "under care."

A new application must be submitted for each 12 month period of participation under the Program. An applicant submitting a renewal application must have fully participated in all aspects of the Ministry-Life Choices for Seminarians from the previous 12 month period in order to be approved for a new 12 month period of participation under the Program.

This Program is effective September 1, 2010, and replaces the previous Student Gift Membership Program.

2011-12 STUDENT GIFT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: First _____

 Middle _____

 Last _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Name of Seminary/Divinity School:

Number of credit hours completed:

Total number of credit hours required for degree:

Expected graduation date: _____

Region/Ministry where "Under Care": _____

By signing this Application, I certify that I am eligible to participate in the Student Gift Membership Program, that I understand and agree to the terms of the Program, and that I am committed to fulfilling all of the requirements for Program participation.

Student's Signature _____

Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
130 East Washington Street - Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3659
Phone: 317.634.4504 • Fax: 317.634.4071 • Toll Free: 1.866.495.7322

2011-12 STUDENT GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Region/Ministry Certification

Date: _____

Name: First _____

 Middle _____

 Last _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

I certify the above named individual is a student of a seminary/divinity school who is currently “under care” of our region/ministry.

Signature: _____

Regional Official Name (please print): _____

Title: _____

Region/Ministry: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

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2011-12 STUDENT GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Seminary/Divinity School Certification

Date: _____

Name: First _____

Middle _____

Last _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

I certify that the above named individual is a student at the seminary/divinity school identified below, and that such student:

- 1. is currently enrolled at least six credit hours per term (or is taking an intensive program such as CPE for which additional course work is not recommended); and**
- 2. has completed at least 18 credit hours toward his or her Masters of Divinity degree.**

Signature: _____

Seminary Official Name (please print): _____

Title: _____

Seminary/Divinity School Name: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

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