

Education and Congregational Nurture Committee Handbook

RESPONSIBILITIES

Education and Congregational Nurture Committee (ECN) has as its mission to provide assistance to congregations seeking:

- a. Curriculum assistance,
- b. ECN Resource Center,
- c. Scholarship assistance,
- d. Training customized to a particular church or region,
- e. To provide an academic track to prepare Ruling Elders to the call of Commissioned Pastors (CPs) ministry to particular pastoral service, and to provide continual instruction to CPs serving in Mission Presbytery (Attachment M-4),
- f. To provide email, web sites, Pre-Presbytery workshops, and assistance for educators and congregations.

Curriculum Assistance -- ECN provides Pre-Presbytery Workshops keeping the congregations informed of new denominational curriculum and seasonal resources. For specific questions, a Web link available on website.

ECN Resource Center -- The Presbytery Resource Center is housed in the First Presbyterian Church, Mercedes. Books and material are also brought to the Presbytery meetings so that Presbyters can examine and request materials. Contact the Resource Center at 956-428-3058.

Scholarship Assistance -- Mission Presbytery's scholarships are granted by the ECN Committee. People become aware of available scholarships by visiting Mission's website, from reports in Presbytery packets or presentations at meetings, or in their day-to-day communication with their ECN representatives. The Scholarship Assistance process follows:

- A. An application for a particular scholarship is acquired from Appendix M attachments of the Manual of Operations, the website, or from an ECN Representative. On the website, these forms are found in the **Resources** section, **Grants, Loans and Scholarships**.
- B. Form is completed and sent to the Presbytery Office per address on form.
- C. The ECN Chair receives the application and forwards it to committee members for approval. ECN acts as a "committee of the whole." Applications for the following scholarship are provided:
 - Small Church Education Development Grant
 - James Spivey Scholarship for Christian Vocation
 - John Howard Blake Memorial Scholarship

Training -- Various congregations and regions have conducted training on a regular basis. ECN Representatives participate in these training opportunities. Once again, these requests can either be generated by contacting the ECN representative or the ECN representative may contact the congregation(s). ECN will provide regional training throughout the year and will conduct training opportunities.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

This committee has nine (9) members, a chair; six (6) regions with one representative each; and two members-at-large. These assignments are based on the number of congregations in each Region.

MEETINGS

There will be four (4) meetings a year with e-votes and special called meetings as necessary.

REPORTING

ECN sends a report to Mission Presbytery prior to each Presbytery meeting, which ordinarily occur March, June, and October. The Chair of ECN is a member of General Council.

FORMS

The attached sheets contain scholarship forms that are used for scholarship approvals and for registration and application.

a)	Attachment M-1	<u>The Small Church Education Development Grant</u>
b)	Attachment M-2	<u>The Reverend Dr. James E. Spivey Scholarship for Christian Vocation Application</u>
c)	Attachment M-3	<u>The John Howard Blake Memorial Scholarship Fund Application</u>
d)	Attachment M-4	<u>Commissioned Pastor (CP) Program</u>