

**Grant Application for M.Div. Students
2024 – 2025 Academic Year
Classis Grand Rapids East**

Classis Grand Rapids East is committed to the development and support of future Ministers of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church. Our annual budget includes funds for the support of M.Div. students who meet the eligibility criteria (see below) and demonstrate financial need. The development of ethnic minority leaders is a particular priority for our Classis.

A completed grant application is due by March 1, 2024. Upon approval of the grant, generally in April, installments will be paid directly to the appropriate seminary, half in August and half in January.

Please review Classis Grand Rapids East summary statements on Mission, Core Values, Ministry Priorities, and General Criteria for Grant Funding (see last page).

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be members in full communion and good standing in a member church of Classis Grand Rapids East for at least one year before applying for this grant. A letter from the church confirming this information is a required part of the application.
2. Applicants must intend to meet the ordination requirements for Ministry of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
3. Applicants must intend to serve in the ordained Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church or in intentional ongoing partnership with the CRC.
4. The Leadership Development Team will only recommend financial assistance for applicants who have submitted all required materials and participated in a personal interview with the Team (typically in March). Classis GR East also reserves the right to interview individual applicants.
5. If Classis grants financial assistance, recipients must accept the terms of the attached Agreement between Classis and the Recipient, which could oblige them to pay back such funds under certain circumstances. Without the signed agreement, we cannot process an application.

FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS -- here is a checklist of the items we need from you:

- ___ A one-page letter briefly summarizing your life situation and professional goals.
- ___ A letter from your Classis East church council or pastor confirming the length of your membership, recommending you to Classis for financial assistance, and endorsing you as a prospective candidate for the ministry of the Word in the CRC.
- ___ A current transcript of your academic work (an unofficial copy is fine).
- ___ A completed Income-Expense Form (see below), including the amount you are requesting from Classis.
- ___ A signed copy of the Agreement between Classis and the Recipient (see below).

APPLICANTS for RENEWAL of a grant – here are the items we need from you:

- ___ A one-page letter giving us a brief account of your progress and updated professional plans since your last application.
- ___ A current transcript of your academic work (an unofficial copy is fine).
- ___ An updated Income-Expense Form (see below), including the amount requested.
- ___ A signed copy of the Agreement between Classis and the Recipient (see below).

Please email all application materials as Word documents to:

Ken Bratt - kdbritt@gmail.com 616.648.6407

Deadline: March 1, 2024

INCOME-EXPENSE FORM: Summer 2024 - May 2025 (Confidential)

NAME: _____ DATE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE # _____

MEMBERSHIP IN WHAT CONGREGATION? _____

NAME OF SEMINARY & year in seminary (next year): _____

MARITAL STATUS: _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

NAMES & AGES of CHILDREN, if any: _____

INCOME

Amount of current savings	
Anticipated net income from summer earnings	
Anticipated net income from part-time work during next school year	
Anticipated net income from spouse's work during next school year	
Contributions from parents or others	
Income from scholarships for the next school year	
Amount of money from loans or grants	
Other	
TOTAL	

EXPENSES (for the next academic year)

Tuition	
Books and Fees	
Housing (including utilities)	
Transportation (car)	
Food	
Clothing	
Church & Charities	
Christian school tuition for children	
Child care	
Medical Insurance	
Medical Expenses	
TOTAL	
Amount of Present Indebtedness	
Current Monthly Obligation on debts	

Amount Requested from Classis for this year: \$ _____ (required)

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN CLASSIS GRAND RAPIDS EAST
and the RECIPIENT**

Since Classis Grand Rapids East has granted my request for financial assistance from its Leadership Development (LD) fund so that I may continue studies leading to ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church, I, the undersigned, agree to the following provisions:

1. I will stand ready to explain to the LD Team any irregularities that may develop in my conduct, belief, or academic status, including discontinuation of studies or change of degree program. I understand that the Classis retains the right to withdraw assistance because of such developments.
2. Should I not enter ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church (or in intentional ongoing partnership with the CRC), I understand that I may be required to repay in full whatever grants I have received, unless the reason for not entering the ministry is chronic illness or disability.
3. If I leave the work of ministry in the CRC prior to five years of service, I understand that I may be required to repay all grants to me, understanding that the obligation is reduced by twenty percent for each year of service.
4. By signing this agreement, I accept the responsibility of informing the LD Team and fulfilling any obligation for repayment in the event I do not enter the ordained ministry in the CRC or leave it before completing five years of service.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

LD Team Rep. _____ Date _____

CLASSIS GRAND RAPIDS EAST

Mission, Core Values, Ministry Priorities

OUR CLASSIS MISSION is to joyfully reflect the love of Christ by encouraging and equipping one another in prayer, engaging missionally with our neighbors, and working for justice, reconciliation, and unity in Christ. (rev 1/19/2023)

CORE VALUES

1. An Extended Church Community.
2. Authentic, Passionate Faith.
3. Discipleship.
4. Being Good Neighbors.
5. Social Justice.
6. Diversity.
7. Servant Posture.

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

1. To Develop Leaders.
2. To Worship and Pray Together.
3. To Thrive in Our Neighborhoods.
4. To Break Down Barriers.
5. To Shepherd Each New Generation.
6. To Press on Together.
7. To Partner Ecumenically.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR GRANT FUNDING

1. All grants from Classis Grand Rapids East are to align with its values and priorities and help fulfill its mission.
2. Classis grants are designed to support new ministry initiatives, related training needs, and other ministry opportunities.
3. Classis grants are intended to help develop self-sustaining ministry through broader partnership and support (in contrast to long-term funding).
Note: Sustaining Partner Grants are an exception to this criterion.
4. Classis grants require meaningful partnership and accountability with the appropriate ministry team of Classis and, ordinarily, with one or more member congregations.
5. Grant amounts are finalized by recommendation of the ministry team, endorsement of the Ministry Planning Team, and approval of the Executive Team.
6. Grant recipients are to report to and be reviewed by the appropriate ministry team at least annually.
7. Actual payment of approved grants will be contingent on available funds.

*Note: For a full description of Core Values and Ministry Priorities, see our website <https://classisgreast.org/index.php/mission/> Member Login - **pw:grace***