

## **Scholarship Opportunity: Duane and Terry Townley Endowed Family Scholarship for Pastoral Counseling**

The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan is proud to announce the availability of the Duane and Terry Townley Endowed Family Scholarship for Pastoral Counseling. This scholarship is designed to support seminary students and active clergy who are pursuing graduate or post-graduate education in the vital field of pastoral counseling. If you are currently enrolled in a degree program or a continuing education course in pastoral counseling, you may be eligible for an immediate scholarship. Contact the Foundation for more information.

### *Pastoral Counseling: A Vital Extension of the Church*

Pastoral counseling is an essential extension of the church's mission, offering a compassionate and spiritual approach to addressing the mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals and communities. The work of pastoral counselors helps congregants navigate life's challenges, including grief, trauma, relationship issues, and personal crises, through a combination of biblical wisdom, theological understanding, and psychological insight.

In today's fast-paced world, the need for trained pastoral counselors has never been more urgent. Church leaders and counselors play a pivotal role in helping people find healing and wholeness. They offer not only spiritual guidance but also a safe, supportive space for individuals seeking help. The impact of pastoral counseling extends far beyond individual healing, benefiting the entire community by strengthening the bonds of compassion, empathy, and understanding.

### *A Legacy of Generosity: Duane and Terry Townley*

This scholarship fund is the result of the vision and generosity of Duane and Terry Townley. Their commitment to supporting the next generation of clergy and counselors reflects their deep understanding of the need for well-trained pastoral professionals within The United Methodist Church. The Townleys have specifically directed this endowment to support students who are Certified Candidates or active clergy in the Michigan Conference who are furthering their education in pastoral counseling.

As the Fund opens its doors for the first round of scholarship applications, those pursuing a career or a continuing education course in pastoral counseling are invited to contact the Foundation today. The scholarship is aimed at reducing the financial barriers for seminary students and clergy seeking to enhance their skills and serve their communities in profound ways.

### *A Word of Support from Rev. Dr. David S. Bell*

Rev. Dr. David S. Bell, President & Executive Director of the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, offers heartfelt support for this scholarship fund and the vital work of pastoral counseling:

"Pastoral counseling is a cornerstone of the church's ministry. It provides individuals with the necessary guidance and support to navigate life's trials. It's through the

compassionate care of pastoral counselors and the grace of God that individuals find healing, hope, and restoration. We are deeply grateful to Duane and Terry Townley for their foresight and commitment in establishing this endowment. Their generosity ensures that future leaders in pastoral counseling will have the resources they need to equip themselves for this sacred work. This scholarship is a testament to their dedication to strengthening both our clergy and our communities. We thank them for their vision and selfless support of the church's ongoing mission."

#### Inquire Now

The Duane and Terry Townley Endowed Family Scholarship for Pastoral Counseling is open to providing scholarships. Candidates must be enrolled in a graduate or post-graduate program in pastoral counseling or a similar field at an accredited institution. Applicants should demonstrate a strong commitment to serving in the Michigan Conference by using their education to positively impact the community through the practice of pastoral counseling.

For more information on eligibility criteria and how to apply, please contact the Foundation directly.

This scholarship represents a significant opportunity for those called to serve others through the ministry of pastoral counseling. Duane and Terry Townley's legacy will help to nurture the next generation of clergy and counselors who will, in turn, strengthen and support the lives of countless individuals within the Michigan Conference and beyond.