

Women in Pastoral Ministry (WIM) Sponsorship

We believe God has called both male and female to pastoral leadership and to proclaim the good news of salvation in the closing hours of earth's history.

Therefore, a partnership for funding the hiring of 20 female pastors per year was created between the conferences, unions*, and the North American Division (NAD). This sponsorship will contribute to the Seventh-day Adventist Church fulfilling Matthew 28:18-20 in the NAD territory and around the world.

How is the three-way funding partnership divided?

The conference, union, and division will participate in the support of the pastor's salary based on the salary being divided into thirds for a period of three consecutive years. This funding does not include employee benefits or the Economic Research Institute (ERI) allowance/cost-of-living allowance.

What are the minimum requirements for a prospective candidate?

A prospective candidate must have an undergraduate degree in theology or religion. The conference must identify a pastoral assignment where the congregation is favorable to a female pastor and must make a commitment to the female pastor that surpasses the three consecutive years of financial assistance from the union and the division.

What is the process for a conference to acquire funding for a prospective candidate?

The conference must have the prospective candidate complete the WIM application, obtain the sponsoring conference committee approval, and submit the application to the union for approval. The union must approve and submit the application to the NAD Secretariat Office. The division will need to approve the prospective candidate and the funding. Approval is not final until the conference, union, and division have completed their approval processes. The prospective candidate should not be officially hired by the conference until all conference, union, and division processes are finished.



How many sponsorships are available annually?

Twenty WIM sponsorships are available per year throughout the division. Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis from the conferences.

Are current part-time female pastors eligible for the WIM sponsorship?

Funding is available for new female applicants who have never been employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a pastor.

Is there a preferred graduate degree for a prospective candidate?

The preferred graduate degree for a prospective candidate for the WIM sponsorship is a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree from the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University. For a female applicant who has not yet attended seminary at the time she submits her WIM application, the division recommends the female applicant work with the NAD Ministerial Association for assistance with enrollment in the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) degree through the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Who are the division contacts if you have questions about the WIM sponsorship?

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**Note: As some unions may have limited funding for the WIM program, please confirm available funding with your union before beginning the WIM sponsorship process.*

