



# PASTORAL FINANCIAL HEALTH

*Understanding Our  
Financial Story*



# CHANGING FINANCIAL STORIES FOR GOOD

The Covenant Financial Leadership Initiative cultivates a culture of excellence by bringing together open and curious credentialed Covenant pastors to take charge of their own and their congregation's financial health. These supportive peer communities are dedicated to the goal of financial resilience. Take the path out of debt and distress to fully realize your calling and purpose. Move toward financial stability as you lead with confidence and set an example to others.

**Financial literacy is the starting point for being able to build financial capability.**

**Financial capability is the capacity, based on knowledge, skills, and access, to manage financial resources effectively (Consumer Financial Protection Bureau).**

**Financial literacy and capability to lead financial wellness.**

# PERSONAL FINANCE

CFLI offers **Jump Start**, a personal finance retreat for ministerial couples or singles. This interactive retreat takes a formational, devotional, and practical look at personal finances and identifies tools to help build spending plans.

## WHAT PEOPLE SAY AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE RETREAT:

*"I have been encouraged and helped by those who have been open, transparent, and willing to talk to me about such issues, so I seek to do the same for others. Framing the conversation in terms of money as a tool and not a goal is helpful."*

—Great Lakes Conference Pastor

*"The Debt Payment was the greatest help. Ours is a low-income issue, so that remains. I think seeing our net worth is eye-opening. Realizing the main issue is income, takes some guilt away and allows for future steps to try and better that."*

—Town and Country Pastor

## PERSONAL FINANCIAL COACHING:

Pastors, missionaries, or chaplains who have participated in a Jump Start retreat can receive up to four free personal finance coaching sessions from qualified and trained coaches.

# MINISTRY EXCELLENCE FUND



As part of the Covenant Financial Leadership Initiative, pastors are invited to submit requests to the Ministry Excellence Fund (MEF). This fund provides aid to help alleviate some types of financial distress for ministers. The two main areas for help are in instances of catastrophes and for consumer aid.

**CONSUMER AID GRANT:** Ministers may apply for a grant for up to \$10,000 to address consumer debt or student loans. Ministers who receive this grant commit to meeting with a financial coach that may continue up to nine months at no expense to you. To participate, contact Develop Leaders at [financialleadership@covchurch.org](mailto:financialleadership@covchurch.org).

**CATASTROPHE AID:** Ministers who experience a once-in-a-lifetime event of loss may be eligible for aid beyond what the Ministers' Care and Crisis Fund provides. This is a match fund. Participation by the minister's local church and regional conference is expected. To participate, contact Develop Leaders at [ministry@covchurch.org](mailto:ministry@covchurch.org).

# CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP TRAININGS



**CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP SEMINARS:** National Covenant Properties offers financial and real estate training sessions intended for church pastors, treasurers, staff, and church leaders. This seminar provides tools to help churches deliver good financial reporting, build healthy and missional financial practices, and understand essential core topics from ministerial compensation to fraud protection.

**CULTIVATING GENEROSITY CATALYZING POTENTIAL COHORT:** These Cohorts are for conference-based groupings of local church leadership teams that meet throughout an eight-month period to explore the changing landscape of giving, identify how to adapt to cultivate generosity, and catalyze stewardship potential in the local context.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The Evangelical Covenant Church

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