



August 26, 2019

Dear [Lay leader],

We have invited pastors from the WLS graduating classes of 2014 and 2015 to be our special guests at Summer Quarter 2020 in Mequon. [Pastor's name mail merged] is part of those graduating classes. While Summer Quarter runs for two weeks with many one- and two-week classes available (June 15-26), we hope that especially for the first week (June 15-19), the pastors of WLS 2014 and 2015 could be with us.

This letter is an encouragement for your congregation's (or school's) administration to begin the discussion of supporting [Pastor's name mail merged] attendance in Mequon for one or both weeks of Summer Quarter 2020. Such support has three critical elements: 1) speaking words of encouragement to your pastor and other lay leaders about his attendance; 2) giving your pastor the gift of time to attend – recognizing that this time away for study and growth is not the same as your pastor's vacation; and 3) providing financial support to assist with tuition and travel expenses.

Over the years, we have found that pastors who have such support from their lay leaders are far more likely to attend. We recognize so much the importance of your support that we have established ways to partner with you in this effort. **Grow in Grace** offers a matching grant scholarship program. We match every dollar a calling body contributes toward their pastor's tuition (cutting the cost of each course taken in half). We also provide travel assistance for those traveling over 400 miles round trip. We've provided a sample of possible costs along with this letter.

Enclosed is a brochure that talks about this support as it relates to all the ways **Grow in Grace** partners with pastors and calling bodies for pastoral growth.

We send this encouragement fully understanding that budgets are often tight for congregations and other calling bodies. But this support deserves careful discussion since it is truly investing in your pastor's continued growth. That means it is an investment in your congregation's gospel ministry.

You may be aware that two consecutive synod conventions (2013 and 2015) went on record urging congregations to include just this kind of support for all their called workers as a regular line-item of their ministry budget.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our **Grow in Grace** executive assistant, Barbara Rickaby ([Barbara.Rickaby@wls.wels.net](mailto:Barbara.Rickaby@wls.wels.net) – 262-242-8182), or to me ([Rich.Gurgel@wls.wels.net](mailto:Rich.Gurgel@wls.wels.net) – 262-242-8181).

We hope it will be possible for your pastor to be with us on campus next summer!

In Him,

Professor Rich Gurgel



### Summer Quarter Cost Estimate

As someone charged with being a good steward of your congregation's resources, we realize that the cost of this event is an important part of the decision you make to support your pastor's attendance. Here are the estimated costs for Summer Quarter 2020:

	One Week (June 15-19, 2020)	Two Weeks (June 15-26, 2020)
Room and board (includes meals)	\$200	\$400
<b>OR</b> Commuter midday meals	\$40	\$80
Travel/airfare (based on travel assistance example below)	\$170	\$170
Course tuition @ \$250 per credit (example assumes pastor takes 2 credits for one week or 4 credits for two weeks with matching grant scholarship)	\$250	\$500
Total estimated costs	\$460 - \$620	\$750 - \$1,070

Travel assistance is available to those who meet BOTH of the following requirements: 1. Register for a CE course for credit and 2. Travel more than 400 miles round trip. Travel assistance will be provided at the rate of 40%. This will be based on the least expensive mode of transportation – either mileage above 400 miles round trip from home to Mequon, WI, or airfare from the airport nearest home to the airport nearest Mequon, WI. Reimbursements will be mailed after **documented** (receipts please) expenses are received. Transportation reimbursement forms will be available on the **Grow in Grace** website.

**Travel Assistance Example:** Airfare for one from Denver, CO to Milwaukee, WI is \$282 (estimate). However, round trip mileage from Denver, CO to Mequon, WI is 1,053 miles (Google maps).  $1,053 - 400 = 653 * \$ .48 \text{ per mile} = \$313.44$ . So, you would use the least expensive amount of \$282. This cost would be reimbursed at 40%. In this example, that would yield a reimbursement of \$112.80.

Summer Quarter registration will open in January. We urge the leaders of your congregation to discuss this opportunity to support your pastor's ministry. It is our prayer that not only will your pastor be among those who gather in Mequon next year, but also that his attendance at this event proves a blessing to him and to you for many years to come!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our **Grow in Grace** executive assistant, Barbara Rickaby, at (262) 242-8182 or [barbara.rickaby@wls.wels.net](mailto:barbara.rickaby@wls.wels.net).

In Him,

Professor Rich Gurgel