



Dear Lay Leader,

Thank you for caring so well for your pastor(s). *Studies have shown that one of the most significant factors for clergy well-being is the support pastors feel from their congregations.* A partnership between you and your pastor(s) is highly significant for their effectiveness and well-being.

We are honored to partner with you to help your pastor thrive personally and professionally. Included in this packet are some fantastic opportunities to further support your pastor and prepare for Pastor Appreciation Month in **October**.

In this packet, you will find the following resources that can be of direct benefit to your pastor(s):

- **The Green Envelope:** This envelope includes a guide to double the dollars you invest in your pastor through the Thrive Financial Initiative. Thanks to a significant grant from the Lilly Endowment, Education & Clergy Development is able to offer matching grants with local churches and/or districts to help address financial challenges faced by clergy.
- **Bless Your Pastor Brochure:** This program from the National Association of Evangelicals will give you a myriad of creative ideas to bless your pastor.
- **#myPASTORis** – This flyer explains how you can win a prize for your pastor by posting a picture on Facebook or Twitter of you with your pastor. Prizes include, Amazon gift cards, Fitbits, a \$500 Visa gift card and the grand prize for a pastor and spouse to attend the 2023 Gathering at the Caribe Royale (registration and accommodation) in Orlando, Florida.

You can also find other ideas for appreciating your pastor(s) on our website:
www.wesleyan.org/pastorappreciation

Thank you for living out the words of the Apostle Paul who wisely encouraged us *“to respect those who work hard among you . . . hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work”* (1 Thess. 5:12-13). May God bless you lavishly for your faithful service to the church.

Together in faith, let's expect God to do great things in the coming months to affirm and appreciate the pastors and spouses of The Wesleyan Church.

Sincerely,

Russ Gunsalus
Executive Director

David Hagle
Director of Clergy Care

Johanna Rugh
Director of Spanish Ministry



**Thank you for opening this extra letter.
It says a lot about how much you care for your pastor!**

We are so excited about your interest in doubling your dollars to support your pastor! The Thrive Financial Initiative (TFI) provides a wonderful opportunity for you to bless your pastor with a matching grant and participate with them on a journey to increase biblical financial wisdom.

Overview - TFI was designed to address the economic challenges facing clergy. Common challenges are student loan debt, retirement, low salary, medical bills, etc. While these challenges vary from one person to the next, in our research most of our Wesleyan pastors identify at least one of these challenges as significant.

Does it work? – Yes, this program has been proven and tested for more than three years. We have testimony after testimony of pastors and churches benefiting from the matching grants and the biblical financial wisdom education.

Thanks to the generous grant from the Lilly Endowment and the partnership of several districts, many TFI participants have received \$2,500 checks at this year's District Conferences.

How can our church participate? – Great question ;-) and it's really simple.

- 1. Gather your Thrive Team** – *A Thrive Team is a pastor and at least two key laity who agree to work together each year to learn more about the economic challenges facing their pastor, and to work on financial learning journeys that benefit the pastor and congregation.*
- 2. Choose Thrive Well-Being Investment** – *To earn a matching grant the local church makes a new investment in their pastor's financial well-being (e.g., help reduce debt, give a raise, larger pension contribution, etc.).*
- 3. Complete Two Thrive Financial Learning Journeys** – *For example, year 1 participants complete Ron Blue's "God Owns It All" DVD curriculum and "Master Your Money" book.*
- 4. Submit Thrive Well-Being Report** – *To receive a matching grant, the Thrive Team must submit a simple Well-Being Development Report (WDR) near the end of the conference year.*
- 5. Receive Thrive Matching Grant** – *Thrive Teams that complete all the requirements each year can earn a matching grant for their pastor. The Grant will match at least \$1,000 of the churches' new investment and often we can match even more.*

You can visit www.wesleyan.org/tfi to sign up and learn more about doubling your dollars to support your pastor.

Questions? – After reading this letter you may have several questions, which is totally normal. We are confident that by visiting the TFI website, many of those questions will be answered.

However, if you may have a question, you can reach out to your District Coordinator (the list of them is available on the TFI page). If you don't find your district, please send us an email to tfi@wesleyan.org or you may call us directly to our offices at (317) 774-3911. We have also included a postage-free response card that you can fill out and send to us. We will do the rest. Please keep in mind that we are here to help!

Thank you again for supporting your pastor so well and giving us the opportunity to partner with you in this Thrive Financial Initiative adventure. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Rev. Johanna Rugh
TFI Director



Dr. Mark Rennaker
TFI Grant Director





THE **wesleyan** CHURCH

Education & Clergy Development

#myPASTORis Pastor Appreciation Month 2019

Join us in sharing stories of those who faithfully shepherd our communities

Here's how you can get involved:

- Follow The Wesleyan Church on Facebook and Twitter
- Print the attached #myPASTORis sign
- Post a photo of you and your Pastor holding your sign on social media
- Use the hashtag #myPASTORis
- Share a characteristic of your pastor that you appreciate
- Tag at least 3 other people, asking them to do the same! Pastors tagged in these posts will be entered for prizes, including Fitbits, Amazon Gift Cards, a \$500 Visa Gift Card. Our grand prize winner will receive registration and accommodations for the pastor and spouse to attend The Gathering at the Caribe Royale in 2023 in Orlando Florida!

Examples of social media posts:

- #myPASTORis among the best listeners I know
- #myPASTORis the one who showed up with a kind word and a basket of groceries after my surgeries
- #myPASTORis an encouragement to so many people
- #myPASTORis at most of the basketball games at our local high school, and a mentor to many of the coaches in our area!