



Gammon Research Institute: Pandemic Impacts on Clergy of Color

The Gammon Research Institute, which is part of the Gammon Theological Seminary, surveyed clergy of color about the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year. Preliminary results indicate the pandemic significantly impacted clergy of color.

More than 230 pastors responded to the online survey about 2021. Highlights of their answers include the following:

- **More than 48%** experienced a negative financial impact of more than \$1,000. **33%** had a negative financial impact of more than \$2,500. **More than 20%** had a negative financial impact of \$4,000 or more. Reduced income, unreimbursed church expenses, and increased debt all qualify as negative financial impacts.
- The reduction in pay and the rise in debt are hardships often felt acutely by clergy of color because they typically had lower-than-average salaries prior to the pandemic.
- **47%** reported “very high or extremely high” increases in stress, and **40%** indicated “significantly or extremely heightened” anxiety. **Less than 5%** said the pandemic had not caused increased stress.
- **Over 45%** indicated “major or extreme increases” in fatigue.
- The survey results also show resiliency and hope among clergy of color. **Only 6%** indicated the pandemic caused significant loss of hope, and **only 2%** reported significant uncertainty about their faith.



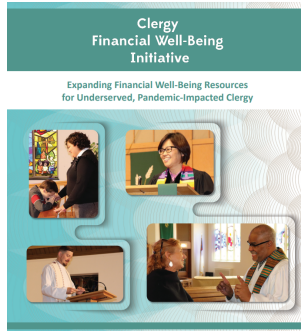
Help Us Raise Matching Funds to Support Underserved Pastors

The Clergy Financial Well-Being Initiative’s current focus is improving the financial well-being of underserved and pandemic-impacted pastors, especially clergy of color. This work is financially supported through a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

We are asking United Methodist organizations to prayerfully consider contributing to a dollar-for-dollar matching grant available from the Lilly Endowment. The Lilly Endowment will match up \$250,000 raised by the Initiative by September 30, 2023.

We encourage you to share the following resources with your leaders so they can learn more about this opportunity:

- [Click Here – Program Overview \(PDF\)](#)

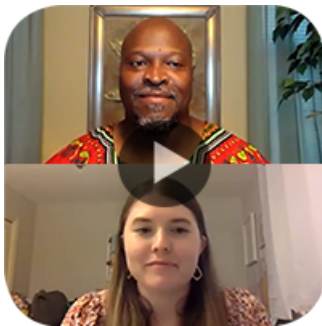


- [Click Here – Video Overview of Program](#)



For more information, contact:

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Saving Grace Can Change Your Church: Tips on Leading Successful Study Groups

Three pastors and a lay employee shared their inspiring experiences of hosting *Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being* with their local churches in a [recent webinar](#) hosted by The Reverend Ken Sloane, Director of Stewardship and Generosity at Discipleship Ministries. The panelists—Rev. Anna Guillozet, Rev. Cary James, Rev. Jeff Vanderhoff and Katie Davis—shared tips about leading *Saving Grace* and explained how the *Saving Grace* curriculum helps parishioners improve personal financial well-being.

To learn more, or to order any of the *Saving Grace* products, visit the [Saving Grace website](#).



Partner With us on a Clergy Scholarship

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) is seeking funding partners for the [Excellence in Clergy Leadership scholarship](#). This scholarship is a partnership between GBHEM, Wespath, United Methodist seminaries, annual conferences and area foundations to reduce seminary debt and provide financial literacy skills for ministry candidates with strong potential.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, 58 scholars from 26 annual conferences received the scholarship.

To learn more or to join this effort, please contact Allyson Potts at GBHEM at apotts@gbhem.org. The deadline to commit to being a funding partner for the 2023-2024 academic year is December 1.

UMC Clergy Financial Well-Being Initiative

For more information about this initiative and clergy financial well-being resources, visit: <https://www.wespath.org/for-plan-sponsors/UMC-clergy-financial-well-being>

Successfully expanding financial literacy depends on strategic collaboration.

We look forward to working with you in 2022.

Connected in Christian Service,

Dale Jones, *Wespath Project Director*

Bonnie Marden, *Project Manager*

David Bell, *Project Chair*

A collaborative project led by **Wespath Benefits and Investments**, **General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**, **Discipleship Ministries** and **National Association of United Methodist Foundations** funded by a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant through their Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders.



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