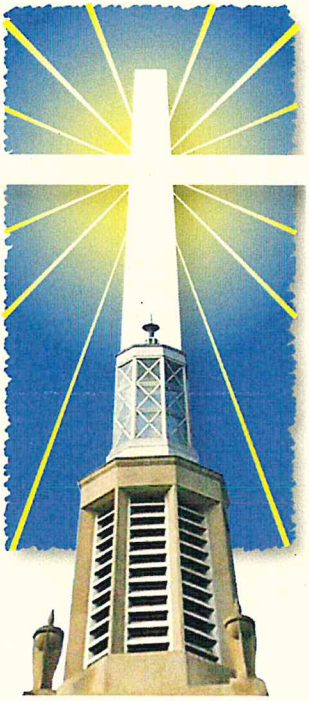
A House of Prayer for All People

Bertha E. R. Strosacker
Memorial Presbyterian Church
1310 Ashman Street
Midland, Michigan 48640

www.mempres.org



Monday, March 13, 2023

Presbytery of Lake Huron
Committee on Ministry
P.O. Box 6129
Saginaw, MI 48608-6129

To the Committee on Ministry:

I am the Communications Director at Memorial Presbyterian Church. I respectfully submit my application for scholarship reimbursement in the amount of $1000 for attending Presbyterian Peacemaking Program's Root Causes of Forced Labor Migration in the Philippines Travel Study Seminar in February. Please refer to the enclosed application or contact me for additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Christ,

Sheryl Hnizda

Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda
Children's Ministry Director
SherylH@mempres.org
989.330.1152 Cell
989.835.6759 Church
989.835.6770 Fax

"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." – Psalm 37:4

Clergy Scholarship Application

Directions for Use:

1. Form should be submitted to the Presbytery of Lake Huron after approval by the session.
2. Mail to:
   Presbytery of Lake Huron
   Committee on Ministry
   P.O. Box 6129
   Saginaw, MI 48608-6129
   or e-mail to: spercy@presbylh.org

Name: Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda
Church (s): Memorial Presbyterian Church

Amount church provides for Study Leave/Professional Development $ 1000

If Study Leave Allowance is included in the Professional Expense budget what amount is designated for study leave? $ 1000

The above amount must meet at least the current presbytery minimum.

Other funding available $ 500 Presbyterian Women; $500 Synod of the Covenant

Name of event or type of experience: Root Causes of Forced Migration in the Philippines
Sponsoring organization: Presbyterian Peacemaking Program
Name(s) of leaders/teachers: Pastor Cathy Chang and Pastor Carl Horton
Location for event: The Philippines & Hong Kong
Dates of event: February 3–17, 2023

Costs of Event:

Registration or tuition:	$ 2837.50
Travel Expenses:	$ 4216.38
Housing Expense:	$ included
Food Expense:	$ included
Materials or Books:	$ included
Total:	$ 7053.88

Amount requested from the Presbytery of Lake Huron: $ 1000

Applicant Signature: Sheryl Hnizda Sheryl Hnizda
Clerk of Session Signature: Susan Hoshaw Susan Hoshaw

Conditions of application:

1. All study leave/professional development funds provided by the church must be used; or you must identify how they will be used during the current calendar year.
2. No more than 2 scholarships per person will be considered in any calendar year.

~ Over ~

1. How will this time of Study Leave/Professional Development help nurture your growth as a pastor and as an individual?

   As Communications Director at Memorial Presbyterian Church, peace is something I strive for in my interactions with fellow staff members, congregants, family, and friends. I feel called to expand my worldview of peace and fulfill my Christian duty to help others in need.

   During this travel study seminar, I witnessed how our sisters and brothers in the Philippines need advocacy and help as many try to push against the current of being forced to leave home and family for employment. I believe I can add another voice to theirs in calling for change and better safeguards, and I can share their story with others.

2. How will this time of Study Leave/Professional Development help nurture and strengthen the congregation(s) that you are serving?

   I will share the stories I have heard from those who have been forced to migrate for work and for the family members who have been left behind as they grieve the loss of their family connectivity. I am a volunteer on my church's Justice and Peace Committee, and I will encourage the group to offer workshops and more information on the topic of forced labor migration and trafficking. I would like to have us host a peacemaking authority for a community-wide event. With this committee and with my congregation, I will share ways that we can support and advocate for the Filipino workers.

3. Other information the COM should have to evaluate this application.

   I respectfully request that reimbursed aid to me be designated from the presbytery's Peace and Justice Fund.