

Covenant Brethren Church

Guidelines for Continuing Education for Credentialed Ministers



The Executive Board of CBC has put much thought, discussion, and prayerful reflection into the question of Continuing Education for our credentialed ministers. We know that many of our ministers are bi-vocational, most have families, and the demands of ministry can be great. But we also know that a growing and learning minister is a vessel that the Lord can use in significant ways. The Apostle Paul instructed his Spiritual son, Timothy,

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 KJV

Many of us came out of a continuing education system that seemed a somewhat legalistic and burdensome. Our desire is to present here guidelines that are more accessible and not a burden to our ministers, but to keep us all growing as we serve the Lord.

- A. Credentialed ministers are required to earn **THREE** Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in each five-year period. It is NOT necessary for ministers currently enrolled in an educational program, such as our CBC Ministry Training Program, to meet this requirement. It is NOT necessary, but is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED for retired ministers who are not actively serving a church to meet this requirement.
- B. The Regional Ministry Leadership Teams will be tasked with the assignment to review the CEU fulfillment of ministers within their Region at the end of each five-year period and report to the Ministerial Leadership Committee of the Executive Board of CBC. (For those ministers not currently within one of our established Regions, the national level Ministerial Leadership Committee will assume this responsibility.)
- C. There are many ways that ministers can earn CEUs. Ministers desiring to apply educational opportunities for CEU that are outside of CBC sanctioned programs or events should obtain pre-approval (before participation) for CEU by the region's Ministerial Leadership Committee. Suggestions follow:
 1. Attending the CBC Annual Meeting & Worship Conference in its entirety earns .25 CEU
 2. Attending Regional Conference in its entirety earns .25 CEU
 3. Formal classwork, such as our CBC Ministry Training Program earn CEUs at the rate of one CEU for each 10 hours of class time. --- Those teaching these courses will also be granted CEUs at the same rate.

4. Many training opportunities are available through local hospitals, funeral homes, colleges, Bible Schools, and online. Courses taken will earn CEUs at the rate of one CEU for each 10 hours of class time.
5. We highly recommend Brethren Biblical Institute (BBI) held each year in July on the campus of Elizabethtown College for their CEU bearing courses.
6. Each year at the CBC Annual Meeting & Worship Conference there will be pre-conference meetings, many will offer CEUs. Once every 5 years there will be a required ethics training class offered at the Annual Meeting & Worship Conference that will earn CEUs.
7. Writing an article for the Covenant Journal will earn .25 CEU
8. Publishing a book related to the Bible or ministry will earn 1 CEU
9. Reading a book related to Bible, ministry, church history, ministry leader biography and submitting a one-page book report including: a summary of the book & important learning you received from the book, will receive 0.5 CEU
10. Travel such as to the Bible Museum in Washington D.C., The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Kentucky, short-term mission trip, disaster response trip, Holy Land, or Brethren beginnings in Germany, will be granted CEUs based on the duration of the travel and with a written summary of your experience. The Regional & National Ministerial Leadership Committees will discern the number of CEUs to grant for such experiences (based on the standard of 1 CEU = about 10 hours of classroom instruction) at their discretion.

It is our prayer and intention that gaining your CEUs as a growing minister will not be a burden but rather will be something that bears good fruit for the Lord and His Church in your ministry.

If you have questions regarding a possible source of CEUs please be in touch with your Regional or the national Ministerial Leadership Committees. It is our intention to be very open to opportunities that fit you, your schedule, and your growth in ministry!

The Covenant Brethren Church Executive Board & Ministerial Leadership Committee