



RANDALL A. BACH
PRESIDENT

Dear Church Governing Board Member/Elder,

Your pastor has opportunity to enroll in a graduate program with Wheaton College that will lead to an M.A. in Leadership and Christian Ministry. Wheaton College is considered one of the premiere Christian colleges in America. Most of the work will be done online. There will be three, one-week study trips spread out during the course of study, which begins next summer, 2019. You can learn more about the program by visiting <https://www.openbible.org/wheaton-partnership>. By joining the special Open Bible partnership cohort group your pastor can obtain a 35 percent discount on tuition. That is phenomenal!

Enrolling in this program will deepen and broaden your pastor as a leader in terms of what he or she learns about the Lord and His Word and leadership principles -- through interaction with people with whom he or she connects. It will be an inspiring, challenging, and equipping opportunity.

I am writing to encourage you to help make this opportunity possible for your pastor. Graduate school tuition at a private college that does not receive governmental funding is expensive. Most pastors do not have excess money that can be easily directed toward tuition. So, my desire is to build a team of financial supporters for your pastor's education. Open Bible Churches will make a grant investment toward students who enroll in this program. Some Open Bible regions are also ready to provide financial grants and assistance. There might be some financial support from pastors' extended families and friends. My hope and request is for your church to also invest in your pastor's graduate education.

I had a dream and desire to pursue a master's degree when I was executive director of East Region. The dream had been with me for a long time, but I didn't see how I could do it. Ministry was consuming, and I didn't see how I could pull together enough money. When I shared my dream with the regional board those leaders absolutely blessed me! They said they wanted to support my dream and would help pay a significant portion of the tuition. They made it possible. But, more than the money, their decision made a powerful affirming impact on me.

They loved me, believed in me, and wanted to help me become everything that the Lord desired. I will always be indebted to those leaders. I was enriched both by my studies and by their loving support.

We all need people who stand by us and help along the way. Your pastor is a leader who stands by and helps people. This is an opportunity to do the same for your pastor. Here is what I ask: Please visit with your pastor about this educational opportunity, about his or her desire, and how much it will cost. Will you then as a team of leaders prayerfully consider what you can do? You cannot do what you cannot do. My hope is that you will do everything you can do.

Please feel to call me with any questions at 515.288.6761.

God bless!

Randall A. Bach
President, Open Bible Churches