



Emergency Assistance to Minister's Fund

(Adopted April 16, 1991; amended February 19, 2000)

The Emergency Assistance to Minister's Fund is administered by the Committee on Ministry. To protect the confidentiality of the ministers' personal lives and crisis needs the committee does not disclose the nature, amount or recipient of each grant, but restricts itself to the total available to it in the presbytery budget each year.

The purpose of the fund is to respond to emergency needs of ministers, and their families, and presbytery staff, which cannot be met personally or through the resources of the churches or Presbytery they serve. The fund can be used to meet emergency needs of widow, staff and former spouses of ministers. Allocations are for 'one time' grants, and funding in a particular year does not imply that there will be repeat grants in future years, although repeat grants have been made. Though normally allocated as grants with no expectations of repayment, there have been times when the committee, with the consent of the recipient, has made a no-interest loan that was repaid.

Illustration of usage of the fund:

1. Down payment money for house purchases, fresh seminary graduate, small church (loan, repaid in three years).
2. Major medical expenses for a child of a pastor old enough not to be covered under the Board of Pension's major medical program.
3. Medical situation where the deductible on the pension plan was sufficiently high, given the type of treatment, to place hardship on the family. More often than not this involves psychiatric outpatient services with a 20% deductible throughout the treatment process.
4. Transitional costs for a pastor or spouse in the process of divorce. The committee has made such grants to help the spouse re-settle when the partner was not dealing responsibly with the situation.
5. Particular needs of retired ministers in Presbytery with medical problems not covered under insurance.
6. Particular needs related to persons enrolled in major medical with pre-existing health conditions not covered for a period of time. Adoption of a child with a pre-existing medical problem.