

**Presbytery of Lake Erie**  
**Committee on Ministry**  
**Policy on Emergency Assistance to Minister's Fund**

Re-Adopted by COM February 18, 2020

The Emergency Assistance to Minister's Fund is administered by the Committee on Ministry. The purpose of the fund is to respond to emergency needs of ministers, their families, and presbytery staff, which cannot be met personally or through the resources of the churches or Presbytery they serve.

To protect the confidentiality of the ministers' personal lives and crisis needs the committee will 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 fund may be used to meet emergency needs of widows, staff and former spouses of ministers. Allocations can only be received once per year, and the receipt of funding in a particular year does not imply that there can or will be (a) repeat grant(s) in future years, although the committee reserves the right to grant funds in more than one calendar year. Though normally allocated as grants with no expectations of repayment, the committee may determine that offering a no-interest loan with expectation of repayment is a wiser decision.

Funds may be used for the following purposes. (NOTE: The following list is not exhaustive and other needs not specified here may be determined wise by the committee).

1. Down payment money for house purchases for a fresh seminary graduate, small church minister member without access to a manse, or for a minister who is relocating due to divorce or abuse.
2. Major medical expenses for minister member, spouse, or immediate family (parents or children).
3. Emergent or ongoing medical, mental health, or addictions treatment for minister member, spouse, or immediate family (parents or children).
4. Transitional costs for a pastor or spouse in the process of divorce.
5. Particular needs of retired minister member of the Presbytery with medical problems not covered by or which exceed insurance; long term or rehabilitation care; or housing.
6. Adoption of a child with a pre-existing medical problem that is beyond the benefits offered by the Board of Pensions.

When a minister member, spouse, or their immediate family member makes application, they shall also be provided with contact information for the Presbytery's Church Consultant through

the Board of Pensions so that they can avail themselves of any and all resources available through the Assistance Programs of the Board.