

## **Ministerial Hardship Fund**

The purpose of the Ministerial Hardship Fund is to provide a source of money for the temporary relief of ministers and licentiates who are in severe financial hardship while laboring in this Presbytery, or while inactive after years of service in the Presbytery.

Persons are eligible to receive payments from the Ministerial Hardship Fund who meet the following criteria. They must be a minister or licentiate in this Presbytery, or (in the event of the death of such a minister or licentiate) his family. They must be living within the bounds of Presbytery, and the minister or licentiate concerned must be giving or have given residential supply there. They must be undergoing severe financial hardship.

Severe financial hardship comprehends (without limitation) medical problems for the minister or licentiate or his family which are not covered, or not adequately covered, by medical insurance; housing problems for the minister or licentiate or his family which leaves the family subject to sub-standard living conditions with an attendant risk of ill-health; problems with debt incurred pursuant to ministerial work; problems arising with the spouse of a minister or licentiate being unable to work.

The Ministerial Hardship Fund shall be administered by a committee appointed by Presbytery, and comprised of six members, three of whom shall be ministers, elders or deacons who are members of Deacons' Courts within the Presbytery, and the other three shall be ministers in the Presbytery. Members of the committee shall serve a three-year term. The Committee shall be chaired by one of the ministers on an annual rotating basis. The quorum of the committee will be at least five members, including two ministers. The committee shall be instructed to open a bank account for the Fund, or to maintain it as a line item within the Presbytery's primary account. The committee shall meet when need requires, but at least annually, to review any application for a payment to be made from the Fund.

Applications for a payment from the Fund may be made by anyone who appears to meet the qualifications of eligibility to receive payments. All applications shall be kept strictly confidential. The amount and frequency of any payments made shall be within the discretion of the committee. It is also within the discretion of the committee not to make any payment. In the event that an application for a payment is made by, or on behalf of, a member of the committee, that member shall recuse himself and shall not be present for any deliberations or participate in voting with regard to the application.

Adopted by Presbytery on June 12, 2009.