



Presbytery of Genesee Valley

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EMERGENCY AID FUND POLICY

The Presbytery shall establish and maintain an Emergency Aid Fund for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley (for Clergy, CPs, staff, and other church personnel whose needs exceed those of their benefits plans, personal resources, and other resources) to which persons could make contributions.

Rationale:

At one time, the Presbytery Executive had an off-budget discretionary fund that was used to assist clergy (and others in service to the church) in times of extraordinary need. Persons who received assistance were encouraged to contribute back to the fund when they were able. The choice of who received funds was at the Executive's discretion. Some years ago, the fund was depleted and not restored.

The current economic situation prompts the need to establish an Emergency Aid Fund for those in service to the church. Furthermore, the Board of Pensions has a Shared Grant program designed to assist plan members. There is an expectation that the Presbytery will "share" by making some kind of contribution toward assistance.

The Presbytery must grant permission to establish a designated fund and grant permission to solicit contributions to the fund. The Clergy Care and Development Committee will conduct an annual appeal for funds that will include active and retired clergy, other church workers, and congregations. Contributions may be received year-round.

It is appropriate that a joint ministry team from the Committee on Ministry and the Clergy Care and Development Committee develop a plan for the administration of this fund that will include guidelines for its appropriate use, eligibility requirements, and determine how funding will be authorized.

Meanwhile funds may be collected and dispersed at the discretion of the Presbytery Leader in consultation with other Presbytery leaders as appropriate. The fund may also be used to leverage assistance from the Board of Pensions.

Approved by COM at 11/ 3/09

Approved by Clergy Care & Development 11/11/09

Approved by Presbytery 11/24/09