



Guidelines for the Farmer Fund Grant Program

The following guidelines shall be used in reviewing and approving a Farmer Fund Grant application:

- An individual may receive one grant in a calendar year.
- A grant will not be approved if a previous grant was made for the same emergency situation.
- A grant will only be approved for a one-time emergency situation.

Note: An emergency is defined as an “unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action; a pressing need.”

- Distressed clergy members or former clergy members of an annual conference; their spouses, former spouses, former surviving spouses or surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children) are eligible to apply for a grant. The term “clergy member” is interpreted to mean both active and retired conference members.
- A grant should only be requested to supplement health care insurance or the loss of income due to health-related problems if all other resources have already been utilized. This also applies to requests to cover insurance deductibles or co-payments.
- A grant is not to be used solely to supplement disability insurance or the loss of income due to disability status.
- An annual conference requesting a grant on behalf of a participant must provide sufficient information to justify the grant. An application must be completed by the participant or a person authorized* to act on the participant’s behalf. The annual conference must provide a written description of the applicant’s situation and a supporting statement on why this is a one-time emergency.
- The conference liaison related to the annual conference shall review and approve the application and statement prior to submitting it to the Farmer Fund Program administrator.
- The grant amount will be a maximum of \$3,000 per individual request. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis based on need.
- The annual conference must certify that a concurrent grant will be made on a \$1.00 for \$3.00 basis.
- When a grant application is approved, the check will be sent to the annual conference office to forward to the applicant.
- A grant is not to be used to supplement loss of income when an appointment is not made by an annual conference.

Note: Farmer Fund grants received from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church are charitable gifts and should not be reported on the applicant’s IRS forms W-2 or 1099. However, conference concurrent grants for a clergyperson may be considered taxable income due to the relationship between the clergyperson and the annual conference.

*Authorized: Power of attorney or agreement between participant and conference officer, or a court-appointed guardian.