

Necessitous Grants Guidelines

The Purpose of Necessitous Grants

The purpose of these grants is to assist qualifying persons (as defined herein), as determined by the Necessitous Grants Committee on an individual basis, with the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, health care, and other needs when they are unable to provide those needs for themselves.

Procedures

Qualified Persons

- A clergy member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference who is an active participant in a Wespath Sponsored Pension Plan;
- A local pastor of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference under episcopal appointment to a charge, and who is actively participating in a Wespath Sponsored Pension Plan;
- Retired clergy and retired local pastors in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference who are actively participating in a Wespath Sponsored Pension Plan;
- All spouses, former spouses, surviving former spouses, or surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children) of qualified clergy;
- The applicant must exhibit the required financial need for a Necessitous Grant.

Grant Publicity:

- Application is available on the conference website.
- Notice of application procedure in Retired Clergy Association newsletter annually.
- Requests from the Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.
- Communication through district newsletters.
- Application obtained from the Chairperson of the Necessitous Grants Committee or the Executive Director of the Board of Benefits, hereinafter called the Board. The completed form will be returned to the Chairperson of the Necessitous Grants Committee.

Executive Director Involvement

Contact (personal visit) by the Executive Director, when feasible.

1. To explain the philosophy behind the Necessitous Grants program.
2. To assist with the application.
3. To evaluate overall assessment of applicant's needs.

Decision Process

- Distribution of application to committee members, Executive Director, and President of the Board.
- Meeting of members of the Necessitous Grants Committee in person, by Zoom, or by conference call to arrive at a final recommendation.
- The committee shall have the authority to approve the grant disbursement and present recommended action to the Executive Committee for approval.
- Presentation and ratification of the committee's recommendations shall be made at the next Full Board Meeting.
- Confidentiality of the applicant's personal and financial circumstances shall be observed within the confines of the Board.
- The Necessitous Grants Committee may approve grants of \$500 or less in an emergency without full board approval.

Grant Policies

- A one-time grant of \$500 or less may be given in emergency situations.
- Grants of \$500 to \$10,000 will be given by approval of the Executive Committee between full board meetings.
- Grants will not exceed \$10,000 without specific approval of the full board.
- Members can apply for a grant no more than once per calendar year.
- Members should provide proof of financial situation with receipts and invoices.
- Members can receive no more than 2 grants without approval of the full board prior to disbursement.

Review

- These guidelines shall be reviewed by the Necessitous Grants Committee on at least a quadrennial basis, after reports have been received concerning the Board, from General Conference.
- These guidelines should be presented for approval by the full board following recommendation from the grant committee.