

The Board of Pensions administers the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering retirement, healthcare, death, and disability benefits to qualifying members. The Board also provides financial and vocational grants through the Assistance Program.

## Summary

The Sabbath Sabbatical Support Grant Program allows eligible PC(USA) ministers to seek assistance with the cost of a sabbatical. The program helps provide an opportunity for ministers to take time away from the demands of the job and engage in a period of personal and professional renewal. Currently, the program is for pastors of small churches.

## Eligibility

These grants are intended to supplement the financial aid of other contributors. Beginning January 1, 2019, expanded eligibility criteria take effect.

In 2018, you must	In 2019, you must
be a minister who is currently serving a congregation of fewer than 200 members*	be a PC(USA) minister currently engaged in or supporting congregational ministry*
be enrolled in Pastor's Participation in the Benefits Plan	be enrolled in Pastor's Participation in the Benefits Plan
have served your current PC(USA) congregation for at least six years	have been continuously enrolled in Pastor's Participation for at least the past six years
be able to demonstrate financial need	have an effective salary of no more than \$80,000 and be able to demonstrate financial need
receive additional financial support for the sabbatical from other sources, such as congregations, foundations, your synod or presbytery, or other contributors	receive commitments of financial support for the sabbatical from other sources
take your sabbatical for a period of not less than four weeks	take your sabbatical for a period of not less than four weeks
	not have received a sabbatical grant in the last six years
	receive Board approval of a proposal detailing the activities and associated costs

\* Ministers serving in positions that directly support congregational ministry (such as interim ministers or mid council staff members) may also be recommended for a grant through their presbytery.

## Amount

Grants of **up to \$3,000** are available.

## How to apply

The number of grants awarded each year is limited, and the Board of Pensions administers this program in cooperation with mid councils. To determine if grants are still available, call the Assistance team of the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

## About the Assistance Program

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions comprises a range of programs designed to meet specific assistance needs of Presbyterian ministers and other Benefits Plan members at various points in their lives. These programs complement the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in their aim to promote and sustain the wholeness of Benefits Plan members in their ministries; they also provide an important safety net to plan members and their families who have specific needs that exceed personal resources and other means of support.

Through the Assistance Program, the church community provides for

- retired church workers' *financial and housing needs* through Income and Housing Supplements;
- church workers' *financial and vocational needs* through Shared, Emergency Assistance, Adoption Assistance, Transition-to-College Assistance, Minister Educational Debt Assistance, and Sabbath Sabbatical Support Grants.

The Assistance Program is funded by gifts, legacies, income from endowments, and half the Christmas Joy Offering; no dues support the program. Fully 100 percent of each gift is passed on to those in need. The Board of Pensions covers the administrative costs of the Assistance Program through endowed funds accumulated over generations.

*For information about the Assistance Program or to apply for assistance, call 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) or visit [pensions.org](http://pensions.org).*