

PASTORAL CARE SUBSIDY POLICY

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church provides mental health Employee Assistance Program services and mental health insurance coverage. Since Pastoral Care dollars are limited, it is important that clergy and their family members use their insurance or Employee Assistance Program coverage before requesting mental health subsidy funds from the Pastoral Care Committee of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. This ensures that Pastoral Care dollars are available for special situations. Requests for financial assistance for Pastoral Care and/or Spiritual Direction are handled by the Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee.

1. Clergy and their family members shall explore the use of their EAP and their insurance coverage first.
2. Subsidy help is based on financial need up to a maximum of \$50.00 per session. Special circumstances are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
3. Subsidies are granted for up to six months and then may be reviewed for one six-month extension. In cases of exceptional circumstances, requests for subsidy beyond twelve months may be considered.
4. All clergy or their families are required to contribute to the cost of their own therapy or spiritual direction.
5. All requests and payments are maintained in the strictest confidence. Only the Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee is aware of the names of those receiving help or care.
6. Therapists and Spiritual Directors must be licensed or certified in their fields for subsidies.
7. Certified Candidates or Clergy who have been required by BOOM or the District Committee to receive counseling must have their therapist send a report to the appropriate committee.

(Effective May 13, 2005)