

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions

About the Assistance Program

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions embodies our connectional Church at its best through grants provided to those in need — and supported by the donations of generous individuals.

Accessing the Assistance Program

If you represent a mid council or employer and know of a PC(USA) minister, employee, or survivor with a financial need, or if you are a plan member and unsure if you are eligible for assistance, call the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) to discuss how we might help.

Available Programs

All active members



[Emergency Assistance](#) is a one-time grant that addresses an emergency or unexpected need facing a member. Groups of members affected by natural disasters may also qualify. The assistance is initiated by a mid council, employer, or multiple bodies of the Church, which typically share in its cost with the Assistance Program.



[Adoption Assistance](#) of \$3,000 per child is provided at the completion of an adoption to eligible members to help with a portion of their adoption-related expenses, such as agency and attorney fees.



[Transition-to-College Assistance](#) helps eligible members with children entering college. They can receive up to \$1,000 to pay for transitional expenses, such as a computer purchase.

Retirees



[Housing Supplements](#) help eligible retirees and surviving spouses with the cost of remaining in their homes or moving to retirement facilities. Supplements are ongoing unless financial circumstances change.



[Income Supplements](#) help eligible retirees and surviving spouses in need by raising to certain levels the monthly income for those who had earned modest wages. Supplements are ongoing unless financial circumstances change.



[Retiree Medical Grants](#), in amounts up to \$2,500, reimburse retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses who are age 65 or older for dental services and/or hearing aids once every three years.



Ministers in Active Service



[Minister Educational Debt Assistance](#) helps eligible ministers repay educational debt through student loan debt coaching and grants of up to \$25,000 over five years. This makes it easier for them to accept a wide range of positions and wholly commit their best gifts to ministry.



[Sabbath Sabbatical Support](#) provides eligible ministers with a portion of the support they need — up to \$3,000 — to engage in planned activities for personal and professional renewal.

Giving to the Assistance Program

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provides financial assistance to eligible plan members in need of support. Generous individuals freely give the funds that support the Assistance Program. 100% of your gift supports active and retired ministers, PC(USA) employees, and their families.

To give to the Assistance Program, visit our [giving page](#).

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. This special offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to lift past, present, and future church leaders.

To give to the Christmas Joy Offering, visit the [Presbyterian Mission Agency website](#).

