

## **Offering for the Committee on Ministry Emergency Pastoral Care Fund**

There are times when faithful servants of our church experience difficulties that place a significant strain on limited resources. In the past, it was common for presbyteries to have a discretionary fund built into the budget that could be used to assist with such emergencies. With diminishing resources, many of these funds no longer exist. Such is the case in the Presbytery of Geneva.

**The Presbytery of Geneva Committee on Ministry has established the COM Emergency Pastoral Care Fund to provide financial assistance for Presbyterian pastors, surviving spouses, and church workers, when they do not have sufficient financial resources to address extraordinary circumstances**

This fund may be used to participate in the [PCUSA Board of Pensions Shared Grants](#) program, as well as to provide immediate and direct assistance when appropriate.

*The PCUSA Board of Pensions has an assistance program that can help PCUSA church workers and retirees who are enrolled in the benefits program. The Assistance Program has a wide variety of grants available, which can be found on the Board of Pensions website.*

*Among these are Shared Grants which are designed to help active and retired church workers or their surviving spouses with special financial needs or in emergency situations. Those seeking help must be recommended by an employing organization of the Church that is willing to financially share in the grant with the Board.*

*The Pastoral Care Emergency Fund would make it possible for the Presbytery of Geneva to participate in the Shared Grants program and to also to offer immediate assistance in a timely fashion when the situation merits such consideration.*

### **Program Administration:**

Normally the Presbytery Leader will receive requests for assistance.

The Presbytery Leader will consult with the COM Co-Moderators to determine if the request meets the criteria for the Shared Grants program or merits direct assistance. This team will discuss how to address the need, determine the amount of assistance that will be offered, and initiate the Shared Grants process, if appropriate.

The identity of the recipient will be kept in confidence. The COM Co-Moderators will report the distribution of the grant and the balance of the fund at the next COM meeting.

Emergency Pastoral Care Funds will not be authorized for gambling or credit card debt, or for legal fees or fines.

***Thank you for your generosity!***