



The Church is Caring for Your Needs!

Dear Colleague,

For more than 100 years, generous gifts to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ, have allowed for active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their spouses/partners to receive additional financial support.

Each year, assistance is awarded to eligible UCC members in the form of pension supplementation, health supplementation and emergency grants which has brought much-needed financial relief for the servants of our church.

This direct financial support is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the philanthropic arm of the Pension Boards, which has been caring for ministers since 1885. Through the generosity of individuals and congregations to the Christmas Fund and Our Church's Wider Mission, the ministries of UCBMA are made possible and is further subsidized by Ministerial Assistance Fund.

How to be screened today!

We invite you to review the available financial assistance on the back on the flyer to see if you qualify for any of these grants. Please complete the enclosed form and mail it in the postage-paid envelope provided. Your completed screening form will help us determine your eligibility. Upon review, you may be invited to complete an application to provide additional information.

If you are currently receiving financial assistance through Ministerial Assistance, and applied in 2019 or in previous years, please complete the enclosed form to update us on any income or household changes.

For questions, please contact us at **1.800.642.6543, ext. 2714.**

Sincerely,



Joaquin A. Labour-Acosta,
Director, Ministerial Assistance,
Grants and Scholarships



Josefina Wallen-Bell,
Grant Administrator

MINISTERIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS AND BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

PENSION SUPPLEMENTATION

UCC retirees who qualify receive monthly pension supplementation payments to bring their total household income up to a minimum level established each year. Assistance is also available for eligible persons whose retirement or disability income is insufficient to meet basic living expenses.

Eligibility

- You must be at least 65 years of age and fully or partially retired
- Authorized Ministers with current UCC Standing
- Lay Employees of a UCC congregation, Association, Conference, or National Setting with a minimum of 10 years of service
- Surviving spouses/partners of the above

HEALTH BENEFITS SUPPLEMENTATION

Health Benefits Supplementation helps qualified, lower-income retired authorized UCC ministers, lay church employees, and their surviving spouses/partners pay their UCC Medicare Advantage Plan with Rx premiums.

Eligibility: The same eligibility criteria above apply (see Pension Supplementation) to those interested in Health Supplementation, except the applicant must be participating in the Pension Boards' UCC Medicare Advantage Plan with Rx.

Note: Individuals who are Medicaid recipients or Medicaid eligible do not qualify.

EMERGENCY GRANTS

We know that sometimes those who serve the Church encounter urgent situations that require more financial resources than they have available. Emergency Grants help meet eligible needs during life's most unexpected events.

Eligibility:

- Authorized Ministers with current UCC Standing
- Lay Employees of a UCC congregation, Association, Conference, or National Setting, with a minimum of 10 years of service
- Surviving spouses/partners of the above
- Members in Discernment for at least a year

To apply for an Emergency Grant, please contact the Conference office where you have authorization for ministry and speak with a member of the Conference staff. Explain your situation and ask them to forward your request for an Emergency Grant. If the Conference supports your request, Conference staff may call or email the Director of Grants and Scholarships, Mr. Joaquin A. Labour-Acosta, at **1.800.642.6543, ext. 2862** or jlabour@pbucc.org.

Note: Emergency Grants are for unforeseen circumstances that create financial demands. They cannot be used to offset personal loans, taxes, or (non-medical-related) credit card debt.