

Resources for 1001 New Worshipping Communities

Benefits Grants for Organizing Pastors and Evangelists

These grants support the evangelism efforts of presbyteries planting churches and cultivating new ministries by funding the enrollment of organizing pastors and evangelists in Pastor's Participation, in the Benefits Plan.

Eligibility Criteria

For a presbytery to be eligible for the grant, the minister must:

- be an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament employed by the presbytery in church job code 301 for no less than 20 hours per week;
- have an effective salary that is less than the congregational ministers' median (\$61,200 for 2021);
- not currently be enrolled in Pastor's Participation and not have been enrolled for Pastor's Participation in this employment relationship, or with this employer, for at least two years before enrollment in this grant program; and
- not have initiated a retirement benefit with the Board of Pensions.

The grant and dues will be established at minimum participation levels for Pastor's Participation.

The grant will be issued as a credit to the presbytery's monthly bill for benefits, which will show the cost of Pastor's Participation for the approved individual.

The grant covers the full cost of enrollment in Pastor's Participation the first three years the individual qualifies, two-thirds of the cost in the fourth year, and one-third in the fifth year, as shown in the chart.

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Grant year	Board pays	Presbytery pays
Years 1-3	100 percent	0 percent
Year 4	66 2/3 percent	33 1/3 percent
Year 5	33 1/3 percent	66 2/3 percent

The presbytery must submit a [completed application](#) to the Board of Pensions; the process requires a review and endorsement by the Committee on Ministry.

The Board will accept completed applications for these grants on a quarterly basis:

Application period	Benefits effective date
March 1-May 31, 2021	July 1, 2021
June 1-August 31, 2021	October 1, 2021
September 1-November 30, 2021	January 1, 2022



Minister's Choice

[Minister's Choice](#) is a new benefits package that provides important financial protection for ministers.

- Coverage includes the Defined Benefit Pension Plan, Death and Disability Plan, Temporary Disability Plan, and Employee Assistance Plan.
- Minister's Choice also expands access to assistance and education programs now available only through Pastor's Participation.
- Employer cost is 10 percent of effective salary.

Assistance Programs Available to Ministers

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

Other Programs Available to Ministers

[CREDO](#)

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sponsors Presbyterian CREDO conferences so that PC(USA) pastors may cultivate wholeness — their spiritual, vocational, health, and financial well-being — to better serve the Church.

CREDO conferences are by invitation only. [Eligibility depends on conference type](#). Each fall, PC(USA) pastors who meet the eligibility criteria receive a mailed notice followed by an email invitation to register for a conference offered the following year. CREDO conferences are hosted at select locations during the spring and fall semesters.

