

North Carolina Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**CLERGY CARE COUNSELING
MARRIAGE/FAMILY ENRICHMENT ***

(Completely Confidential)



For
CLERGY CONFERENCE MEMBERS
& DIACONAL MINISTERS
and their families...

Clergy Care Committee
The Board of Ordained Ministry
North Carolina Annual Conference

A PROGRAM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING

The Committee on Clergy Care of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the North Carolina Annual Conference was established in 1971 to provide financial assistance to Clergy(both Deacons and Elders) and Diaconal families for confidential professional care in times of stress and difficulty. In addition, financial assistance is available for marriage and family enrichment with the goal to help make good marriages better and enhance family life.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY ENRICHMENT

The Committee on Clergy Care encourages participation in marriage and family enrichment events. Grants of up to \$100 per individual, or \$200 per family or couple are available. A schedule and/or outline of the event, leaders' names and credentials, and verification of participation should accompany the application. Contact the chairperson of Clergy Care for complete information and application form.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for Clergy Counseling

Each **active** Clergy (both Deacons and Elders) and Diaconal family of the North Carolina Conference is entitled to \$400 per calendar year for professional counseling and therapy through the Committee on Clergy Care as funds are available within this budget amount. Additional financial assistance is available through the Conference Healthflex insurance policy, which includes partial coverage for outpatient psychiatric care. Check with your therapist and the *Health Care Benefits* handbook for details.

"Family" includes dependents of the minister living in the minister's home, such as spouse, children {under age of 22}, parents, and grandparents. Dependent children away from home for college are also eligible.

The only qualifications are:

- 1) Clergy Membership in the North Carolina Conference or serving as Clergy or Diaconal in a local church of the North Carolina Conference or be a dependent of such a person.
- 2) The counseling or therapy must be provided by someone who has one or more of the credentials listed in this brochure or by someone on the staff of one of the pastoral care centers which are approved.

The financial assistance will be provided to cover one-half of the cost of each counseling session (less insurance payments) for which application is made until the full \$400 annual allowance has been granted.

APPLICATION POLICY

At the client's request, the counselor or therapist is to make application for financial assistance to the client in the following manner:

- 1) **The therapist verifies that the client is eligible.**
- 2) The therapist requests application forms with instructions from the Office of Ministerial Relations (919/832-9560, x244) or (1-800-849-4433, x244).
- 3) The application is submitted by the therapist to the chairperson of Clergy Care as directed on the application form. **Clients will be identified by a case number ONLY! The minister and/or dependents are assigned the same case number.**
- 4) The therapist will receive financial assistance on behalf of the client to apply the client's account or to refund the client as appropriate. Clients should request from the therapist a record or statement showing financial assistance received on their behalf.
- 5) *The unused portion of the \$400 allotment will not carry over to the next year.*
- 6) Application for financial assistance **MUST** be made within the calendar year of the date therapy is received.

Cut-off date for the year's billings is December 20th

Should this procedure not be acceptable to the therapist because of his/her payment contract, the client should request the therapist to contact the chairperson of Clergy Care to negotiate an acceptable procedure.

Because of the reporting structure of the annual budget, we are not able to pay for services rendered in the previous calendar year from any current budget dollars. **Therefore, we must ask that all billings for the current calendar year be submitted on or by December 20th, to be received no later than January 5th.**

During the second calendar week of each year, the previous year's budget is closed and no other monies can be disbursed. Please help us ensure that our clergy will not lose their grant benefit by submitting your billings in a timely fashion.

CREDENTIALS OF COUNSELOR/THERAPIST...

Providers of counseling and therapy who have one or more of the following credentials or an equivalent credential are eligible to apply for and receive financial assistance on behalf of clergy clients.

Psychiatrist: American Medical Association (AMA) Board Certification, North Carolina License

Psychologist (Clinical): Licensed Practicing Psychologist, North Carolina License (LPP/HSP-P)

Pastoral Counselor: Member, Fellow, or Diplomat of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, Inc. (AAPC)

Counselor: Clinical Member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT), North Carolina Certified Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC)

Social Worker: Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) North Carolina License

**Questions or Request for Application Forms
Call 919-779-6115 or 800-849-4433, ext. 244,**

or mail this form to:

**Linda Bourey
The Committee on Clergy Care
PO Box 1970
Garner, NC 27529**

Counselor/Therapist _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____