

SEMINARY DEBT ASSISTANCE POLICY

THE PRESBYTERY OF WHITEWATER VALLEY

When Whitewater Valley Presbytery is the Presbytery of Care

The Committee On Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley has elected to adopt the wording of the Board of Pensions' Draft Sample policy while it reviews and edits the policy for this Presbytery. {The Committee is carrying out most of these functions already and prefers to allow sufficient time to create a policy that is consistent with the Board's guidelines within the framework of this Presbytery's procedures.}

When Whitewater Valley Presbytery is the Presbytery of Call:

[adopted by the Committee on Ministry, April 24, 2002]

Consistent with the Board of Pensions' Guidelines:

- 1) The Committee on Ministry will counsel with PNC's of eligible congregations regarding the possibility of participating in the Seminary Debt Assistance Program, including which seminaries qualify for consideration.
- 2) Any minister serving a first call following graduation from seminary, who comes with any educational indebtedness, shall be required to show evidence of having attended a financial planning workshop such as a Fiscal Fitness workshop sponsored by the Board of Pensions, or other financial planning workshop. If the minister has not attended such a workshop, he/she shall be required to do so within twelve months of start up. One half the cost of registration, accommodations, and travel for such workshop shall be paid by Presbytery and the balance considered a legitimate reimbursable expense from Professional Development allowance. Time for such workshop shall be IN ADDITION TO the Presbytery's minimum two weeks study leave.
- 3) If granted debt assistance, payments from the Board of Pensions may not be considered part of a pastor's compensation by the church or presbytery.
- 4) The Committee on Ministry shall encourage calling congregations to utilize additional educational debt reduction as a point in negotiating salary with a prospective pastor who is a recent seminary graduate. COM shall inquire at the time of Call if such additional assistance is included in the Call.
- 5) The Shepherd assigned to the new pastor by the COM will work with that individual to develop a plan for ongoing support and guidance, including making the debt situation a topic of the Triennial visit from COM. Space for recording the results of the discussion will be provided on the COM Shepherd's Report Form.
- 6) Applications will be submitted for COM action through the Moderator of COM who will be responsible for submitting the application to the Board of Pensions.