

February 27, 2015

T18 P1 5023  
HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PASTOR  
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*"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."  
1 Corinthians 13:13*

Dear Pastor,

Thank you! As President of The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), I am deeply grateful to you, your session, and your congregation for receiving the 2014 Christmas Joy Offering.

Through this important Offering, you support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, providing help — and hope — to PC(USA) retired pastors and other church workers with income and housing needs, and current teaching elders, missionaries, educators, and other church workers with urgent financial needs. (The Offering equally benefits Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.)

The Assistance Program also offers programs to help meet pastors' vocational leadership needs, a ministry beyond the scope of the Christmas Joy Offering and funded by other means.

In 2014, the Assistance Program provided more than 1,200 grants — nearly \$5.3 million in assistance — to qualifying retired and current church workers and their families. (The enclosed Fact Sheet shows how the monies were distributed; please take a moment to read and share it with your session.) Retirees, who receive the bulk of the assistance in the form of income or housing supplements, tell us these grants allow them to live independently, with dignity, after many years of serving the Church at modest salaries. And from the heartfelt notes of thanks we receive, we know that many of those served experience this assistance as a tangible expression of God's love.

Although the economy has gained some momentum in recent months, the need for assistance is an ever-present reality for many of our church workers, especially retirees. I hope you'll continue to hold the Assistance Program and those it serves in your prayers. If you are able to give monetary support during the year, please go to [pensions.org/giveassistance](http://pensions.org/giveassistance) to make a secure gift online or call the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) to discuss alternative ways to make your gift.

With your help, we can continue to extend a financial lifeline, and God's love, to PC(USA) church workers in need.

Grace and peace,

The Reverend Frank Clark Spencer  
President

Enclosure



# Overview

## ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2014 FACT SHEET

The Board of Pensions administers the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), providing pension, healthcare, death, and disability benefits to qualifying members who serve, or have served, the PC(USA). The Board also provides financial and vocational grants through the Assistance Program.

This Overview summarizes a key element of the Board's plans, programs, or services.

### FUNDING THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions depends on generous givers across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to sustain its ministry. Its programs to assist PC(USA) pastors, other church workers, and their families in times of need are

funded by gifts, legacies, income from endowments, and half the gifts received through the Christmas Joy Offering. The Assistance Program receives no funds from dues paid for benefits such as pension or healthcare coverage.

2014 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANTS *		
GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER	TOTAL VALUE
<b>Retired Church Workers' Financial and Housing Needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Supplements</li> <li>• Housing Supplements</li> </ul>	543	\$4,393,000
<p><i>"The Board's assistance came when I had nowhere else to turn. I feel blessed."</i> — Housing Grant Recipient</p>		
<b>Church Workers' Urgent Financial Needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Grants</li> <li>• Emergency Assistance Grants</li> <li>• Adoption Assistance Grants</li> <li>• Transition-to-College Assistance Grants</li> </ul>	388	\$507,000
<p><i>"Through this grant, I felt the caring of the larger Church. It lifted me during some very dark days."</i> — Shared Grant Recipient</p>		
<b>Pastors' Vocational Leadership Needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminary Debt Assistance Grants</li> <li>• Presbyterian CREDO Program</li> <li>• Sabbath Sabbatical Support Grants</li> </ul>	281	\$393,000
<p><i>"CREDO for Newly Ordained Pastors gave me the opportunity to refill my spiritual well."</i> — CREDO Participant</p>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>\$5,293,000</b>

\*Figures are unaudited. For information about a specific program, visit pensions.org or call the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN), ext. 7300.

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(1 Corinthians 13:13)

## WAYS TO GIVE

- **Cash gift** – an easy way to provide direct and immediate support to the Assistance Program
- **Honor/memorial gift** – a gift to honor someone living or in memory of someone who has died
- **Gift of appreciated securities** – whether stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, gifts of this type can provide you with both charitable gift benefits and tax advantages
- **Planned gift** – a way to make a gift after an event or period of time has passed and receive certain tax and investment advantages

## ONLINE GIVING OPTION

For your convenience, you can give online:

- Go to [pensions.org](http://pensions.org);
- click on **Ways To Give**, then **Assistance Program**; and
- click on **Make a Gift Online**.

Making a gift online is secure and easy. For information about this and other ways to make a donation, please contact the Funds Development team at 800-773-7752, ext. 7300.

## THE GREATEST GIFT

Love lies at the heart of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, a program inspired by faith and bringing hope to those it serves: PC(USA) pastors, missionaries, other church workers, and their families during times of need.

When our church workers face financial burdens they cannot carry alone, the help made possible by gifts to the Assistance Program become a tangible expression of God's love.

## AREAS OF NEED

- Retired church workers' financial and housing needs
- Church workers' urgent financial needs
- Pastors' vocational leadership needs

Recipients often send notes to the Board of Pensions expressing a deep sense of gratitude for the grants they've received through the Assistance Program: "I felt God's grace at work. This grant relieved me of such a burden." ... "The Board of Pensions [Assistance Program] is not an institution, it's people. It's people helping other people. It's brothers and sisters helping other brothers and sisters." ... and "I am deeply grateful for this grant. It offers a tremendous sense of hope and renews my appreciation of our connectional Church."

Benefits through the stages of your life.

