

When the Unexpected Happens

You May Be Eligible for an Emergency Grant

The challenges and often sacrifices that are made while serving in ministry can take a toll on one's personal and professional life. In providing financial support, the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the philanthropic arm of the Pension Boards, seeks to relieve worries and financial demands so that greater wellbeing and wholeness in life and ministry is experienced. This is sacred work because it ensures that those who serve the United Church of Christ receive the care of the wider Church in their time of need.

When to apply for an Emergency Grant?

If you are facing unexpected or extraordinary financial hardship such as:

- Burdensome medical bills
- Unforeseen living or automobile expenses
- Natural disasters or other crises
- Funeral expenses for a minister or lay worker

Note: Emergency Grants are limited to unexpected or extraordinary situations and may not be used to offset personal loans, taxes, or non-medical-related credit card debt nor do they subsidize financial responsibilities of a congregation.

Who is eligible to apply?

- UCC Authorized Ministers in good standing
- Lay Employees of a UCC congregation, Association, Conference, or National Setting, with a minimum of 2 years service.
- Surviving spouses/partners of the above
- Members in Discernment for at least a year registered at an UCC Conference or Association.

How to Apply

- 1) [Click here](#) to learn more about emergency grants and follow the link labeled **Ministerial Assistance Grant Directory** to access the online Emergency Grant Application.

If the link asks for login credentials, create a new login.

- 2) Complete the application by filling in your contact information, then describe the specifics of your situation. However, for medical condition-related grants, please do not share specifics of your condition or procedural needs with us. Please also include the amount requested that will help ease the financial burden.

If you are not able to complete an online application for any reason, please contact ministerialassistance@pbucc.org.

- 3) Contact your conference staff. Share your situation with your Conference Minister or Associate Conference Minister so they, too, can support you during this challenging time.

At the end of the application, identify your Conference Staff as the endorser and the system will automatically send an endorsement request to their email. This step is necessary to proceed with the application process.

What to Expect

- Once your Conference Staff submits the endorsement, your request will be routed to Ministerial Assistance for processing.
- You will be contacted with the results of your application and/or any additional information required.
- Processing time is between 2-4 days after receiving the endorsement. If approved, funds will be disbursed within 7-10 business days.

Massachusetts Authorized Ministers

The Pension Boards partners with the Massachusetts Board of Ministerial Aid (MBMA) in administering emergency grants for Massachusetts-based authorized ministers. Massachusetts authorized ministers can complete the same online emergency grant application listed above and identify themselves as **a Massachusetts authorized minister to receive this support.**