

STEERING CABINET MOTIONS RELATED TO EMERGENCY PROPERTY REPAIR AND ENDURING WITNESS GRANTS

Following the mandated review of the grant funds established in 2018, the Steering Cabinet is recommending revisions to better respond to the needs of congregations and to the priorities identified in the strategic planning process.

The three motions will be debated and voted on separately, but they are each part of a unified revision. PLEASE REVIEW the three motions in this packet prior to the presbytery meeting. The three motions are:

1. Amend the Trustees Emergency Assistance Property Repair Fund as indicated below.
2. Amend the Enduring Witness Grant Fund Policy by replacing it with the revised policy below. (The current policy is on the website: https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/M_Enduring-Witness-Fund.pdf)
3. Amend Manual section 9.6.5 to change the percentages of net property sales which provide the funding for the grants.

The Trustees of the Presbytery of Baltimore Emergency Assistance Property Repair Fund

Funding:

After the obligations as required by each particular sale of church property that accrues to the presbytery, ~~17%~~ 15% of the net proceeds will be placed in The Emergency Assistance Property Grant Fund. [Manual 9.6.5]

Guidelines:

The Presbytery of Baltimore Emergency Repair Assistance Fund will be used to provide emergency financial aid to congregations in time of an urgent church property need. This fund may not be applicable for cases in which long-term financial support is needed. This fund is intended as a last resort, and to be used only after the requestor has explored all other possibilities of help. The maximum amount of disbursement per ~~individual~~ congregation in a calendar year shall be up to ~~\$3,000~~ \$8,000 per request. The

Presbytery of Baltimore reserves the right to adjust or decline an applicant's request. The Presbytery of Baltimore does not discriminate between applicants based on race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age or disability.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are Presbytery of Baltimore congregations who have experienced a need for

emergency property repair.

Procedures

A completed "Emergency Assistance Property Repair Request Form" must be submitted by the eligible individual or by any active/retired participant in the Presbytery of Baltimore on behalf of the congregation and be signed-off by the Clerk of Session. NOTE: Incomplete request forms will not be processed and will be returned to the requestor.

- a. All requests must be reviewed and approved by ~~the General Presbyter and President of the Board of Trustees~~ a team from the Board of Trustees including the General Presbyter. Additional documentation such as an estimate from a licensed contractor may be requested from the applicant.
- b. The President of the Trustees or General Presbyter shall report all expenditures to the Trustees in a timely manner. ~~Such reporting does not require that the specific individual being helped be named, but the number and status of the Emergency Assistance Property Repair Fund must be reported.~~
- c. Preference will be given to first-time requests.

Parameters

Emergency Assistance Property Repair funds can only be granted for property repairs. These needs include, but are not limited to, the following: obvious roof leaks, water main breaks, flooding resulting from HVAC malfunction, fire. Emergency Assistance Property Repair funds cannot be granted for the following: long-term building repair issues, ~~weather-related flooding, penalties for or~~ irresponsible actions. ~~expenses incurred for rental space.~~

Administration

With the consent of the Board of Trustees, the General Presbyter, or the Presbytery of Baltimore, unrestricted gifts, contributions, and bequests can be directed to the Emergency Assistance Property Repair Fund.

POLICY ON ENDURING WITNESS GRANTS FUND

For Congregational Vitality, Pastoral Assistance and Community Engagement

The Presbytery of Baltimore is privileged to receive funds, either through the sale of church property or transfer of assets from congregations whose ministries have ended. The legacy of the faithful ministries of these congregations can continue through grants from the Enduring Witness Fund for Congregational Vitality, Community Engagement, and Pastoral Assistance.

The Enduring Witness Fund will be supported through a percentage of the net proceeds from the sale of closed church properties as specified in 9.6.5 of the Manual of Administrative Operations. The Enduring Witness Grants Budget is \$200,000 per year, distributed annual as follows:

Grant Title: Community Engagement

Group Responsible: Commission on Reconciliation

Grant Range: \$3,000 - \$10,000 per award

Annual Amount Budgeted: \$75,000 (or 25% of annual EW grant budget)

Description: Awarded to congregations engaging in community outreach, more specifically for community engagement.

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Grant Title: Congregational Transformation

Group Responsible: Ministry Group Convenors

Grant Range: \$3000 - \$10,000 per award

Annual Amount Budgeted: \$75,000 (or 37.5% of annual EW grant budget)

Description: Awarded to congregations engaging in programmatic initiatives of evangelism and congregational transformation and growth

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Grant Title: Pension Dues Assistance

Group Responsible: Commission on Ministry

Annual Amount Budgeted: \$65,000 (or 32.5% of annual EW grant budget)

Description: BOP dues for ½ - ¾ time positions for pastoral leadership for up to 3 years

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Grant Title: **Administrative Leave Pulpit Supply**

Group Responsible: Commission on Ministry

Annual Amount Budgeted: \$10,000 (or 5% of annual EW grant budget)

Description: assisting congregations with pulpit supply when pastor is on administrative leave

This policy may be amended by the Presbytery, on recommendation of the Steering Cabinet.

RATIONALE FOR REVISION

The Enduring Witness Grant Fund was established in 2018. Since then, needs have evolved and changed. More churches are reaching out to their communities and need assistance with these initiatives. There is an increased need for support of pastors in emergency situations.

Since the Fund's inception the Presbytery has completed an eighteen-month Strategic Planning process identifying priorities of the congregations and ministries. As a result, the work of Commissions and Committees is shifting, requiring a reassessment of which entities are best situated to administer the grants.

The original grant policy required 66% of the net proceeds from the sale of closed church properties to seed the fund for future use. This percentage has been successful in providing a well-funded and sustainable program. The Trustees and Cabinet recommend changing the Manual mandate of 66% of net sale to 45% which both entities agree will be sufficient for adequately funding this grant program. (Changing 9.6.5 in the Manual is a separate vote.) This POLICY revision revises the administration and amounts of individual grants reflecting the needs, priorities and structural changes identified in the strategic planning process.

MOTION FOR MANUAL CHANGE

(NOTE: The Steering Cabinet recommends that the change introduced at the March Meeting be disapproved so that the following can be introduced for approval. See docket)

That Presbytery approve amending The Manual of Operations section 9.6.5 as follows:

*After the obligations as required by each particular sale have been met, the Trustees are to place ~~66% of the~~ **45% of the net proceeds into the Enduring Witness Fund, and 17% into 15% into The Emergency Assistance Property Grant Fund.** The Trustees shall invest and manage the remaining monies in accordance with their duties. Any expenditure of these remaining funds requires approval of the Presbytery, upon receipt of the advice of the Trustees and the Steering Cabinet.*