

Massachusetts Board of Ministerial Aid

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1869

One Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702

508-875-5233 FAX 508-875-5485

May 2021

To: Massachusetts Clergy, United Church of Christ

Re: Pastoral Counseling
Financial Counseling

Emergency Grants
Quarterly Grants

Christmas Gifts

Dear Friends in Ministry,

The Massachusetts Board of Ministerial Aid (BMA) provides confidential financial assistance and financial and pastoral counseling both to Clergy, and their families, who serve, or have served in the historical Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ and other churches of the "congregational way". The founding members of the Board understood the challenges of pastoring and established a fund to assist clergy and their families in times of need. That fund has been supplemented over the years with private donations and proceeds from its portfolio. The Board's role is to use that fund to model the compassionate care of Christ and continue to help ensure the financial and personal well-being of pastors in the Conference.

BMA offers **emergency grants** for immediate financial needs, **quarterly grants** for retired clergy to supplement inadequate retirement income, and Christmas gifts in cooperation with the UCC Pension Board.

- To apply for help, contact one of the Associate Conference Ministers or the President of the Board of Ministerial Aid, Walter Kreil at 978-944-0259 or walter.n.kreil@gmail.com

Effective January 31, 2021, BMA joined with the UCC Pension Board to offer the confidential financial counseling services of Ernst & Young **Financial Planning Services**, who can help evaluate your financial position, retirement planning goals, and other financial concerns. These services are provided at no cost to you.

- For financial planning services, Ernst & Young can be reached through their website at <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/ey-financial-planning-services> or by phone at 877-927-1047. Simply identify yourself as a member of the United Church of Christ.

In addition, BMA has contracted with **pastoral counseling** centers in several locations throughout Massachusetts. These centers draw on the rich traditions of psychology and spirituality to offer confidential counseling.

- For Pastoral Counseling, call: Pastoral Counseling Centers of Massachusetts (Westboro, Worcester, Hudson areas) at 508-366-4000, or NE Pastoral Institute (Eastern Massachusetts, including Boston metro area) at 603-890-6767. This is a confidential service.

These services are available to clergy who serve, or have served, in the historical Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, and their families, who seek or are referred for such care.

If we can help, we look forward to hearing from you. We hope you will help spread the word about our services to clergy colleagues in the Massachusetts. Thank you for your ministry.