

**Louisiana Conference
Board of Ordained Ministry
Care and Nurture Team
Policy Number 101
Clergy Counseling Funds**

The use of the clergy counseling funds are overseen by the Care and Nurture Chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry of the Louisiana Annual Conference. The fund is to be used for the confidential psychological therapy needs of the clergy under appointment and their spouse, and/or dependent children of the Louisiana Conference. As deemed necessary, the CBOM may recommend the use of these funds for clergy within our conference when they may not be under appointment.

The funding is \$300 per clergy and/or their family members per each request. The clergy or family member is to make request for funds in writing to the Care and Nurture chairperson, and to include the name, address, and phone number of the licensed therapist for whom they are requesting payment. Payment is made directly from the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to the therapist. The Care and Nurture Chairperson keeps the names of those being counseled in absolute confidence. The records of the persons helped through this fund are to be kept by the Care and Nurture Chairperson only for the year in which funds are received. At the end of the year all records of names of those helped are destroyed.

No clergy person or family member will be reimbursed directly. Only providers of licensed psychotherapeutic services will be paid for services rendered.

The amount paid in any given instance may be increased at the discretion of the Care and Nurture Chairperson, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The maximum amount of \$1,200.00 will be offered per clergy or clergy family per calendar year. The Care and Nurture Chairperson will keep the names in confidence but may speak of the factors which are suggesting the increase.

After consultation with the Chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the Care and Nurture Chairperson has the discretion to authorize funding for alternative types of counseling such as life coaching, nutritional counseling, etc.

Policy Adopted by Care and Nurture Team on May 10, 2005

Policy Approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry on January 24, 2006

Policy revisions adopted and approved June 3, 2012