

## **Bereavement Leave for Clergy**

All clergy in any relationship (PTLP, FTLP, AM, PE , PD, Full Connection, or retired if serving an appointment) shall be offered at least 30 days for bereavement leave (BL) for the death of a spouse or child. The District Superintendent shall initiate this process by informing the bereaved clergy of the availability of bereavement leave.

Bereavement leave will be in addition to vacation time, continuing education time and days off. The local church or conference agency to which the clergy is appointed shall continue to provide salary and housing, as well as pension and insurance payments, during the bereavement leave. The clergy will have ninety (90) days, beginning the day after the memorial/funeral service, in which to begin the bereavement leave. Details (pulpit supply, covering hospitals, etc.) will be worked out in conjunction with the District Superintendent and Staff Parish Relations chair. The clergy may use the bereavement leave in one block or some smaller blocks of time as he/she wishes, but must complete it within six months of the funeral/memorial service.

In many cases the congregation will have its own resources to secure appropriate pastoral leadership during the bereavement leave, but if the District Superintendent and Staff Parish Relations Chair determine that financial assistance is needed to provide a supply pastor, the Annual Conference Board of Pensions will provide a maximum of \$400 per week depending on whether the appointment is part or full time, and the responsibilities expected of the supply pastor. The District office through the Administrative Ministries Office will disburse any funds from the Conference Board of Pensions to the supply pastor. Counseling is available at no cost to all clergy by a confidential request to the Director of Care and Nurturing of the Louisiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.