

Everence Pastoral Financial Wellness Program

Frequently asked questions

What is the maximum amount that a church or conference/district can raise that will be matched by the Everence® Pastoral Financial Wellness Program?

A maximum of \$6,000 may be contributed to a pastor's financial needs. Half of this amount comes from the Everence® Pastoral Financial Wellness Program (funded in part by a grant from the Lilly Endowment) and half from the church, conference/district or other sources. The grant itself totals \$5,000. The additional \$1,000 is the tax gross-up and will be sent to the pastor to use in the event that the pastor incurs additional tax obligation.

I am a chaplain in a hospital with credentials from my conference/district. Am I eligible for this grant?

No, this grant is only for active, credentialed congregational pastors, as is mandated by the Lilly Endowment.

Can I request grant dollars to supplement my retirement?

No, grant money may not be used to supplement retirement accounts. It can, however, be used to pay down debt such as educational loans, credit cards, unpaid medical expenses and related financial burdens. As debts are paid down, pastors are encouraged to redirect money toward retirement planning.

Can family members or friends of the pastor contribute to the matching dollars raised by a church for a pastor?

Yes, family members may send money to the pastor's congregation, which will then be forwarded to Mennonite Foundation.

Is it true that if I've already received a Pastoral Financial Assistance grant for debt reduction, I'm not eligible for another similar grant?

Yes, due to the number of pastors within the Everence constituency, we are only able to approve one grant per pastor.

What role does the district/conference minister play in this grant? Are they involved in the process and helping to gather the matching grant as well?

Besides the local church, district/conference ministers may be contacted and asked to assist with finding matching funds. There is no guarantee that all districts/conferences can assist with all requests.

If I receive an additional 20 percent above the grant and matching grant to address the tax implication of this gift, how do I record this as income in my tax form?

You will receive a 1099 Form from Mennonite Foundation, and the grant you received will need to be reported as additional income for the tax year in which it was received. Contact your tax professional for more information on filing your tax returns.



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