

The Presbytery of Long Island  
Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Committee on Ministry

## **CANDIDATE INDEBTEDNESS POLICY**

### **When Presbytery is the Presbytery of Care**

Part of the pastoral care God calls us to extend to inquirers and candidates includes care for their financial well-being as they prepare for ministry. Therefore, each liaison from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall consult at least annually with each inquirer or candidate regarding his/her financial situation and ability to pay for seminary tuition, room and board, and other expenses from his/her/ own assets. The inquirer or candidate should be made aware of financial resources which may be available from his/her own church or other churches in the Presbytery, the Synod and the seminaries.

If debt is to be incurred, it is recommended that the total level of debt not exceed 40% of the most recently published PC(USA) churchwide median salary for ministers of the Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elders).

Each inquirer or candidate shall, during the period of inquiry or candidacy, attend a financial planning seminar given by the Board of Pensions for theological students or for young minister. Such seminars are usually given annually at each PC(USA) seminary and at other locations throughout the country. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall assist with the necessary costs of attending the seminar.

When a candidate who has attended a PC(USA) seminary is ready to receive a call, the Committee on preparation for Ministry shall counsel him/her regarding the Seminary Debt Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and its requirements.

### **When Presbytery is the Presbytery of Call**

The Committee on Ministry shall familiarize itself with the Board of Pensions Seminary Debt Assistance Program and its requirements. It shall identify which churches currently in the calling process might meet the requirements for such assistance to its pastor and consult with the Pastor Nominating Committee regarding the Program.

The Committee On Ministry shall consult with each pastor candidate who is a graduate of a PC(USA) seminary within the previous five years, and who is a candidate for pastor of a church which meets the Program requirement, regarding the availability of the Seminary Debt Assistance Program.

Each candidate for a position within the Presbytery who is within five years of graduation from seminary and who has any educational indebtedness shall be required, within two years of the call, to attend a financial planning seminar for young pastors given by the Board of Pensions. The call church shall make continuing education time and funds available for such attendance.

Approved by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, September 2, 2003

Approved by the Committee on Ministry, September 16, 2003

Approved by the Presbytery, November 15, 2003