

PASTORAL CARE GRANT

A core purpose of the District Office is to support those on the front lines, those called to lead the local church in the mission God has given us. The role is very demanding and can wear on a pastor's personal health. It can be lonely and isolating.

The District Office is a ready partner with any Alliance NW church board in caring for those who lead and shepherd us. We believe it is our job to partner with you to help take care of your pastor. It is a core priority for us.

One way we're seeking to support the health of our pastors is to provide a grant of up to \$50 per month for the local church to help with counseling needs, a ministry coach, or what is often called a "spiritual director." All licensed leaders in a staff role (have to be at least half-time) qualify.

For leaders who are retiring or stepping down from a licensed staff position, this grant will be extended to you for up to six months after retirement/ stepping out of a staff role.

The District Office staff has no need to know the content of sessions between a pastor and the person they are seeing. We consider this to be confidential and should be shared only when initiated by the pastor.

It is our hope that our pastors have insurance coverage or financial help should counseling needs require more than a monthly session. If this is not the case, contact Dwayne Smithgall to inquire about additional assistance.

To request a Pastoral Care Grant, contact Amber Curry (amber@alliancencw.org).

HOW THE REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS WORKS

Option #1: For churches participating in the matching grant. (This is the option we recommend for tax reasons and because it demonstrates a shared responsibility.)

- Pastor sees provider and receives invoice for services.
- Pastor submits invoice to the church; the church pays the invoice and sends a copy with a request for a \$50 reimbursement to the District Office.

Option #2: For churches not participating in the matching grant.

- Provider invoices pastor and pastor pays in full.
- Pastor submits invoice to the District Office and requests a reimbursement of \$50 for one session each month.

Invoices for services provided will be reimbursed up to **three months from the date of service**. It is the responsibility of the person receiving the services to make sure their provider gets their invoice to them in a timely manner. Providers should **not** send invoices directly to the District Office in order for us to ensure that services rendered have already been paid in full. We recommend the Governing/Elder Board include a monthly pastoral care appointment in the pastor's role description. This makes the grant un-taxable as income and positions the board to proactively help the pastor engage in good self-care.