SUMMARY OF STEPS

❖ Grant is $300 per request; $1,200 per calendar year.

❖ All clergy under appointment are eligible.

❖ Send a letter of request to:
  CBOM Care & Nurture Chair:
  Rev. Dr. Elenora M. Cushenberry
  3501 Champion Lake Blvd. Apt. 116
  Shreveport, LA 71105

❖ Letter has to include:
  o Clergy
    ▪ Signature
    ▪ Address for confirmation correspondence
    ▪ Phone number (in case of questions from CNC)
  o Licensed therapist’s
    ▪ Name
    ▪ Credentials
    ▪ Address
    ▪ Phone number

❖ At the end of each year, all requests and correspondences are shredded.

❖ Additional information may be found on the conference website and in the 2016 Conference Journal (p. 195)

❖ The Chair of Care & Nurture is available for assistance in recommending licensed psychotherapists.

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2016 - 2020

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CLERGY CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING GRANT INFORMATION
2016 – 2020

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (CBOM)
OVERVIEW

As part of its responsibilities to The Ministry of Jesus Christ in and through The Louisiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (CBOM), the CBOM is responsible for supporting persons who respond to God’s call to professional ministry in various ways.

To meet its responsibilities to clergy under appointment, their spouses and dependent children, the CBOM offers a Care and Nurturing Program, which provides confidential, financial assistance for counseling.

In the same way that clergy under appointment are required to have an annual physical examination and to take time for spiritual renewal, a clergy’s mental and emotional health should be included and cannot be overlooked. Life happens: events, changes, etc. that impact our lives, and can affect our emotional and mental health. No matter how spiritual or how connected we are to God, we are still human and there is no need to suffer alone. Therefore, every clergy under appointment is encouraged to apply for the grant for him/herself, spouse and/or dependent family member(s) when the need arises.

For additional information regarding Clergy care, see page 195 of the 2016 Conference Journal.

TESTIMONIES

We pray that the generalized testimonies below will offset hindrances (such as feelings of guilt, shame, inadequacies, etc.) against seeking mental health assistance.

My family and I thank the Board for this assistance. The counseling we received has made it possible for me to be effective professionally and personally.

I needed help adjusting to my new appointment. The CBOM’s confidential counseling grant was a Godsend. Many thanks.

From a provider: We feel privileged and honored in providing mental health therapy to members of the clergy of the United Methodist Church and other religious bodies....

Who may receive the grant? The fund is to be used for the confidential, psychological therapy needs of the clergy under appointment, spouses and dependent children of the Louisiana Conference.

How much is the grant? Grants are up to $300 per request. The maximum amount of $1,200 will be offered per clergy or clergy family per calendar year.

How do I apply for the grant?

Write a letter of request to:
CBOM Care & Nurture Chair (CNC)
Rev. Dr. Elenora M. Cushenberry
3501 Champion Lake Blvd. Apt. 116
Shreveport, LA 71105

Include the name, address, phone number and credentials (the letters behind the name) of the licensed mental health professional for whom you are requesting payment. Payment is made directly to the provider, unless clearly noted otherwise that another entity (center, clinic, etc.) should be paid; in which case, the address should be included if different from the provider’s. Include the detailed address to which you, the applicant, want your letter of confirmation sent; i.e. to the church, home or other location. Please specify your address of choice in your letter to the CBOM Care & Nurture Chair to help the process go smoothly.

Only licensed psychotherapeutic providers qualify.

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

How may my name is kept confidential? A numerical code is arbitrarily assigned to each request by the Chair, which is used for processing

How long does the process take? The letter of request will be processed within a week from the date of receipt, and the conference office will prepare and send the payment usually within another week.