

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION CRISIS FUND

The Northwest Conference Ministerial Association (NWCMA) maintains a “crisis fund” to provide assistance to credentialed conference pastors and their families. Our fund often works to supplement other resources available through the Northwest Conference and the denominational ministerial association.

What kind of help is available?

The fund is designed to help provide a financial “bridge” for pastors and their families in unusual circumstances. Therefore, we typically provide one-time assistance toward basic needs like:

- unusual medical expenses not covered by insurance
- utility payments or unexpected housing expenses
- food
- emergency transportation needs

Where does the money come from?

Resources for the NWCMA crisis fund come primarily through voluntary contributions by conference pastors, churches, and other individuals who desire to help pastors and their families facing unusual financial needs.

How do I ask for help?

Requests can be made to one of three people: the NWCMA chair, the NWCMA treasurer, or the Conference Superintendent. Together, these three crisis fund officers determine whether or not a request will be granted and the actual amount to be given.

How are funds distributed?

Once a request is approved, the NWCMA treasurer makes the disbursement directly to a health-care provider or other creditor. We do not normally make cash payments directly to the pastor or his or her family. The treasurer may require documentation such as statements or invoices before making payment.

Who knows about the help given?

We seek to protect the privacy of pastors and families concerning crisis fund assistance. While the total of receipts and disbursements are reported to the ministerial association as part of our regular financial reporting, details of specific situations are typically known only to the three officers directly responsible for the fund as well as creditors or others who receive payments. In cases where the NWCMA crisis fund is working together with either the denomination or the Northwest Conference, there may be some sharing of information, but generally only to the extent necessary to determine eligibility and to coordinate the assistance.

Who to contact for further information:

- Darren Olson, NWCMA Chair
- Sandy Norris, NWCMA Treasurer
- Mark Stromberg, Northwest Conference Superintendent

To contribute to the Crisis Fund:

- Mail a contribution to the NWCMA Treasurer
- Give to the crisis fund offerings at association events
- Give through your conference annual meeting registration