

### **3.000 COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY: PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

#### **3.102 Presbytery Candidate Indebtedness Policy**

- A. The policy as distributed by the Committee contains two parts: the Presbytery of Northern Waters as the presbytery of care and the Presbytery of Northern Waters as the presbytery of call. The second can be found in the Manual under Committee on Ministry 4.506, Assimilation of New Clergy Members, 6 and 7.
- B. Candidate Indebtedness when Presbytery of Northern Waters is presbytery of care.
  - 1. The inquirer is required to meet with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry during the inquiry year, in order to assess net worth, and to make a plan for financing the cost of seminary; or
  - 2. The Inquirer is required, during the inquiry year, to participate in a "Fiscal Fitness" workshop being sponsored by the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with the Presbytery having given prior approval through the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, assuming responsibility for travel and accommodations costs for that workshop from the Seminarians Scholarship Fund of the Presbytery.
  - 3. The presbytery will share with the Synod the cost of attending the North Central Career Development Center, or other appropriate center, for career guidance in pursuit of ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
  - 4. A designee of the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry will counsel with an inquirer regarding the inquirer's level of indebtedness vis-a-vis prospective salary that can be expected based on the current median income for the denomination reported by the Board of Pensions, and based on the minimum effective salary established by the Presbytery.
  - 5. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry will work with each inquirer and candidate encouraging the use of his or her available assets to pay for the cost of seminary tuition, room and board rather than incurring indebtedness. If indebtedness cannot be avoided, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry will monitor, with the inquirer or candidate, the level at which this increases as well as the assets that may be made liquid to assist with seminary debt repayment.
  - 6. Committee on Preparation for Ministry will make available to each candidate or inquirer, on an annual basis, a list of options for pursuing grants and interest-free loans and funding that may be available through the Financial Aid for Studies Office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminaries.
  - 7. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall be an advocate with the congregation, of which the candidate is a member, and with other

congregations of the presbytery as appropriate, in order to generate financial support for the candidate in the form of grants.