

PASTORAL CARE GRANTS

A core purpose of the Field 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 Field Office is a ready partner with any Alliance Northwest church board in caring for those who lead and shepherd us. We believe that it's our job to partner with you to help take care of your pastor. It's a core priority for us.

One way we're seeking to support the health of our pastors is to provide a matching monthly grant of **\$50 per month** for the local church so that together we can support our pastor's personal health. All licensed leaders qualify. We're assuming that most one-hour appointments run around \$100.

The scope of the monthly grant is to help leaders with counseling needs, a ministry coach (leadership challenges can totally drain a leader), or what can be called a "spiritual director." The Field Office staff has no need to know the content of sessions between pastors and the counselors they see. We consider all this to be confidential and shared only when initiated by the pastor.

It's our hope that our local church leaders have some measure of insurance or financial help should counseling needs require more than a monthly session. If this is not the case, contact Dennis Pust to have a conversation about additional assistance.

HOW TO ACCESS THE PASTORAL CARE GRANT

1. Request a very short Pastoral Care Grant form from Lisa Casper (lisac@alliancenw.org). This mostly tells us who you'd like to see, and confirms you are aware of the reimbursement process.
2. Fill out request form and then email it to Dennis Pust (dennis@alliancenw.org).
3. Establish reimbursement process with Lisa Casper (lisac@alliancenw.org).
 - a. Option #1: **This one is recommended** because the church is actively participating in the matching grant.
 - 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 Field Office.
 - b. Option #2: When the church is not participating.
 - Provider invoices pastor and pastor pays in full.
 - Pastor submits invoice to the Field Office and requests a reimbursement of \$50 for one session each month.

PLEASE NOTE

1. Invoices for services provided will be reimbursed for up to three months from the date on the invoice.
2. 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.