

Need-Based Housing Grants

By direction of the Annual Conference, the Board began selling vacant homes in 2003 to pay off all mortgages and create a Homes Fund with the United Methodist Foundation. Beginning in 2005, the Board began offering need-based housing grants for retiring clergy. The grants are made from the earnings of the Homes/ Claimants Fund.

To qualify, an applicant must be:

- A clergy person who retires with a minimum of 20 years full-time service with pension credit in the Alabama-West Florida Conference and is receiving his/her pension.
- An un-remarried surviving spouse of an active clergy person with a minimum of ten (10) years full-time service in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. He/she must have been married to the qualified clergy person during the years of qualifying service. Exceptions may be considered in the case of death prior to 10 years of service.
- The surviving spouse of a retired clergy person who was married to that clergy person at the time of his/her retirement Clergy Persons who are placed on Incapacity Leave by the Annual Conference

APPLICATION PERIOD:

Clergy that retire June 1, 2003 or thereafter may apply for a grant any time subsequent to their retirement. Surviving spouses may apply within one year of the date of death of the clergy person. Clergy persons who are placed on Incapacity Leave by the Annual Conference may apply within one year of being placed on incapacity leave or they may apply subsequent to retirement, provided they retire on or after June 1, 2003.

To be considered for a grant, the applicant and spouse's post-retirement earned income from all sources must be equal to or less than 1.25% of the denominational average compensation (DAC) in the year of application.

Applicants must submit a Board of Pension and Health Benefits Financial Statement, along with the most recent 1040 Income Tax Form including all schedules.

Applicants must also complete an interview with a Grant Committee appointed by the Board of Pension.

Grants are intended to assist retiring clergy to obtain housing. The money granted to applicants should be used to aid with some form of housing such as down payments, closing costs, rental deposits, etc. Grants are awarded on a one-time basis up to \$3,500, as set forth herein. Grants will be disbursed within 30 day after approval by the Grants Committee.

Grants are not guaranteed but will be awarded based upon the Homes Claimants Committee's discretion considering financial need, circumstances, available grant funds and the totality of the overall circumstances.