

Clergy R&R Fund is Accepting Grant Applications

The Clergy R&R Fund at Trustees of Funds and Endowments was created by a generous donor to offer clergy and their spouses the opportunity for an experience they would not have in the normal course of their lives. Travel to the Middle East or another part of the world is just one possibility. The hope is that clergy and their spouses will do something different than anything they have done in the past.

This grant is not meant for sabbaticals nor for a 'regular' vacation. Rather, grants are to be used for clergy rest, recreation, renewal, retreat, relaxation, reflection, restoration, and rejoicing. It is the belief of the Clergy R&R Advisory Board that experiences out of our routine allow us to look at the world from a different perspective, thus being a rejuvenating experience. These experiences will help clergy to relate better to the world around them, their spouse, parishioners and to their everyday life.

The challenges of being clergy are shared by the spouse and they need to be cared for as well. That is why grant requests may include expenses such as child or other dependent care, pet care and home care during the experience. It should be as easy as possible for both the spouse and the clergy member to say "yes" in order for this to be a shared experience.

The Advisory Board of the Clergy R&R Fund is now accepting applications for grants to be approved in the fall of 2019. **Applications are due by August 31, 2019** and should be sent to Trustees of Funds and Endowments, Inc, Clergy R&R Fund Advisory Board, PO Box 1359, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The Advisory Board will review the applications and make grant recommendations to the Board of Directors of Trustees of Funds and Endowments in early October. The Trustees will approve grants at their regular quarterly meeting later that month.

The requirements for Clergy R&R Grants are as follows:

- Amount of a grant: up to \$10,000.
- There is no formal application form; your personal letter request, submitted to the Advisory Board of the Clergy R&R Fund, is all that is required. Please address the following areas in your application letter:
 - What you are hoping to do with a Clergy R&R Grant?
 - What are you hoping to experience during this time?
 - Why did you choose this experience?
 - When will the experience occur?
 - What do you estimate your expenses will be? (Please provide details or a budget. Remember that you can include costs for child care, dependent parent care, pet care or home care.)
 - What is the total amount you are requesting from the Clergy R & R fund?
- All costs are eligible to be covered, including expenses for spouses.
- Children are not invited nor may they be included in the R&R activities; the costs of childcare in your absence are covered.

- Eligible clergy must have been in full-time ministry in the Diocese for a minimum of the immediate past three years and have been full-time clergy for at least five years.
- Any grants offered are given based on the need and relative availability of other funding options open to the applicants.
- For deacons to be considered for a grant, letters of support from their Supervising Rector explaining the reasons why the grant is needed and a letter of nomination from a diocesan archdeacon are required.
- Grant recipients will personally meet with the Advisory Board to share their completed experience, learning, and benefit of the funds.
- Advances may be available. Adequate accountings of such advances and grants will need to be made.
- Clergy who have previously received funds from this permanent endowment fund will be eligible to apply again after a three-year period.
- Grants are likely to become taxable income to the recipient. Recipients should review this with their tax and financial advisors. You will receive a tax form from the diocese indicating the amount of the grant for filing with your taxes.

updated May 23, 2019