



Orthodox Presbyterian Church
607 Easton Road, Building E
Willow Grove, PA 19090-2539
www.OPCcmc.org

December, 2022

OPC Minister
Anywhere, USA

Dear Minister ,

Greetings in the Lord from the Committee on Ministerial Care! As a committee we pray for you both as you serve in ministry and are thankful to the Lord for the servants he provides to his church.

Last year was the first year we were able to offer retreats to ministers and their wives, due to the generous provisions of a donor. By July 1 of 2022, we had already allocated all the available retreat funds to 97 OP ministers, and for 89 of them, their wives were able to join them. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from these retreats and are grateful for the impact they had for so many.

Looking forward to 2023, we plan to continue the retreat program with funds coming both from a donor and from a portion of our budget. Our intention is to give first opportunity to those ministers and wives who have not yet received a retreat grant. Please be advised that funds are limited, and we will approve grants on a first-come, first-serve basis. As a result, we suggest planning your retreat and applying as early in the year as possible. We cannot guarantee approval if you take the retreat first and then apply for grant funds after the fact.

As you can surmise, this letter is intended primarily for ministers and wives who did not receive a retreat grant in 2022. However, we would still encourage our 2022 recipients to continue the practice of a time away even if a grant is not likely to materialize in the coming year.

From CMC's perspective, a retreat differs from a family vacation or visiting relatives. It is an intentional effort to step away for a time of prayerful reflection and rest. The primary intent of CMC would be for married ministers and their wives to be able to retreat together. In some cases, however, it might mean a minister retreating by himself, or attending a conference.

CMC's goal is not to be overly restrictive with the type of retreat that will be funded by a grant. Something as simple as a few days at a campsite or hotel might be the right fit for you. Something more elaborate is fine as well, but we plan to cap retreat grants to \$1400 per couple and \$800 per individual minister. Whatever the location, you will note in the grant application that we are asking you to integrate rest and prayer as a component of the retreat.

On a related topic, we view a sabbatical of at least three months after a number of years of service in ministry as a highly effective tool for a long and sustained ministerial career without burnout, even more effective than a few days away. A sabbatical requires more planning and a partnership with your local church, but we also want to remind you that grant funds remain available for sabbaticals as well.

With gratitude for your labors in gospel ministry,

John Fikkert
Director of Ministerial Care

Enclosed: 2023 Retreat Grant Application