

**O. POLICY STATEMENT FOR EMERGENCY AID FOR
CLERGY SPOUSES UNDERGOING SEPARATION OR DIVORCE**

(Approved at Full Members Clergy Session June 4, 1991)

Spouses of clergy, and their resident children of ages under twenty-one, who are undergoing a state of separation and/or divorce, shall be eligible for emergency assistance up to one year after separation has officially begun.

Emergency assistance shall address special financial needs caused by medical bills, insurance, food, clothing, shelter, or other needs necessary for the well being of the spouse during that period of transition. Relief is not available for insurance or other entitlements otherwise covered.

Granting of assistance shall be discretionary with the Board of Ordained Ministry Conference Relations Committee and administered by the Preachers' Aid Society under a special investment portfolio set aside for this purpose.

The procedure for application will consist of a request by the clergy spouse to the District Superintendent for emergency aid. The District Superintendent will consult confidentially with the Cabinet and the Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. After being recommended by the Cabinet, the request will be reviewed and processed by the Conference Relations Committee. Authorization for payment shall be forwarded by the Chair of the Conference Relations Committee to the Preachers' Aid Society Treasurer, who will then forward a check to the applicant within 48 hours.

The fund will be established with a minimum of \$30,000 to be invested as an endowment to insure the fund's longevity. The fund, established under a separate portfolio, will be managed and administered through the Preachers' Aid Society.

The fund will be financially established by grants, contributions and gifts. A yearly appeal will be made to all parsonage families and official Annual Conference members similar to the Preachers' Aid appeal, but not to conflict with the timing or purpose of that appeal.

The above proposal is being presented by the Board of Ordained Ministry to the Executive Session of the Central Pennsylvania Conference and is pending the approval of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

June 4, 1991