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## **Faith Leader Resilience Support**

*For the purpose of this document a faith leader is the pastoral leader of a particular congregation, presbytery or synod who is officially recognized as the leader by the presbytery or synod.*

PDA recognizes, along with much of the disaster-response community, that there are phases of response to and recovery from a disaster, and that different actions are needed at different points in the process of restoration to well-being. In much the same way, PDA is aware of faith leaders who are seeking to sustain ministry in an affected community as they themselves are working out their own journey as survivors. What PDA has learned is that faith leaders experience different needs at different points.

To sustain their own resilience, faith leaders may need to focus on relaxation, self-reflection, and respite; or the greater need may be for reflection, analysis, and planning. There may be some faith leaders who experience difficulty integrating the disaster experience into their life and ministry. At this point in the recovery a more structured program that includes reflection, analysis and planning can be helpful.

Recognizing the need to be flexible, PDA offers the following for Faith Leader Resilience Support.

### **Relaxation, Self-Reflection, and Respite**

After a disaster, relaxation, self-reflection, and respite can be very helpful for faith leaders to find the space for renewing their strength to manage the demands of ministry in a disaster context. This time is not intended to be simply a vacation but is intended to support faith leaders as they find renewal and foster their resilience.

PDA can offer grants of \$1,000 per faith leader per disaster, or a total of \$5,000 per presbytery per disaster for this purpose. The procedure for this grant is that the faith leader communicates the need for respite to the presbytery, and if the presbytery confirms this request, the appropriate leadership forwards it to the Associate for Disaster Response ([jim.kirk@pcusa.org](mailto:jim.kirk@pcusa.org) or 502-438-5161). In the case of the faith leader of a presbytery, the need is communicated to the synod leadership.

The presbytery is encouraged to fund pulpit supply if needed during a faith leaders respite time. Within a year of receiving the grant, the grantee will be asked to provide a summary of how the funds were used. PDA asks that names not be included in the summary.

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## Reflection, Analysis and Planning

PDA has found that most faith leaders will return to normal functioning through care from their established support network. There are some who will find additional support helpful.

PDA will offer financial support to participate in events that offer time for reflection, analysis, and planning. Ordinarily, these events take place at a center that specializes in working with faith leaders.

The presbytery is asked to make a written request to PDA for the faith leader interested in this opportunity. The request should include the specific program of interest. All requests need to be pre-approved by the Associate for Disaster Response ([jim.kirk@pcusa.org](mailto:jim.kirk@pcusa.org)). PDA will cover the cost of the event, transportation, meals and related expenses up to \$5,000 per pastor per disaster.

PDA ordinarily offers one grant for reflection, analysis, and planning per Presbytery per disaster event.

This grant requires an expense reimbursement form be submitted to the PDA.

The faith leader and/or presbytery are welcome to seek consultation with PDA staff or team members in the development of these plans.

In the case of faith leaders of the presbytery, the synod leadership will make the written request.