

COUNSELLING / SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

rev MEGaP-August 2022

Financial assistance from The Free Methodist Church in Canada is available to pastors, spouses and dependent children for counselling fees, up to a total of ten counselling sessions per person per calendar year. This same policy also applies to pastors accessing financial counselling through a partnership with *More Than Enough* and for pastors in a “crisis of faith” situation accessing spiritual direction with an accredited spiritual director. (Note: Financial assistance for regular ongoing spiritual direction is not eligible under this policy.)

The procedure is as follows:

- If your counsellor is a licensed social worker or psychologist, access your benefits coverage to pay for the first three or four sessions.
- The client pays the credentialed counsellor or accredited spiritual director directly for one half* of the cost of each appointment.
- The counsellor or spiritual director invoices The Free Methodist Church in Canada, and sends the invoice to the attention of **Rev. Joan Stonehouse, 9 Claret Road, Courtice, ON L1E 1W1 (email to: joan@trullroadchurch.com)**, for the remainder of the cost of each appointment. Invoices can be sent after each appointment or accumulated and sent monthly or quarterly.
- To protect the identity of the client, the counsellor or spiritual director **SHOULD NOT** identify the client by name on the invoices. Each invoice should **ONLY** include a client number. With the first invoice, the counsellor or spiritual director should include a separate confidential cover letter to Rev. Joan Stonehouse in which the client should be identified by name and the client number assigned.
- After five counselling or spiritual direction sessions, Rev. Stonehouse will contact the counsellor or spiritual director for a brief progress report.

[If paying half the cost of counselling or spiritual direction sessions creates a financial burden, please contact the FMCiC Credentialing Coordinator to determine the appropriate amount of your contribution – credentialing@fmcic.ca.]*