

Clergy “R&R” Fund is Accepting Grant Applications

The Clergy “R&R” Fund was created to offer clergy and their spouses the opportunity to do something they would not do in the normal course of their lives, something beyond the normal. Going to visit the Middle East or another part of the world is just one possibility. The hope is that clergy and their spouses would do something completely 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 our belief that doing things out of our routine allows us to look at the world from a different perspective. Thus being a rejuvenating experience. These experiences will help clergy upon their return 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 in the past we have included all related expenses (including taking care of pets or a house). It should be as easy as possible for the spouse 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 2018. Applications are due by August 31, 2018 and should be sent to **Clergy R&R Fund Advisory Board**, Nicholson House, 804 East Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. The Advisory Board will review the applications and make grant recommendations to the 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 this Clergy R& R Grant?
 - What are you hoping to experience during this time?
 - Why did you choose this experience?
 - When would you be doing this?
 - What do you estimate your expenses will be (provide details or budget)?
Reminder: You can include costs for child care, dependent parent care, pet care or home care.
 - How much are you requesting from the Clergy R & R fund?
- All costs are eligible to be covered, including expenses for spouses.
- Children are not invited nor may be included in the R&R activities; the costs of childcare in your absence are covered.
- Eligible clergy must have been in a 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.