## CLERGY RELIEF FUND POLICY 10.5



#### **CLERGY RELIEF FUND**

Approved by the Clergy Relief Fund Committee

18 April 2024

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Clergy Relief Fund (the Fund) is established under the *Clergy Relief Fund Statute 2016* (the Statute).
- 1.2 In accordance with the Statute, the Clergy Relief Fund Committee (the Committee) may in its sole discretion use the monies in the Clergy Relief Fund to relieve hardship or temporary financial stress for eligible persons.
- 1.3 Hardship is defined as: severe suffering or privation likely to impact unreasonably upon the clergy person's or their family's standard of living and adjudged to be so by the Committee upon written evidence including a submission by the person involved or a Bishop.
- 1.4 Persons eligible for assistance from the Fund are defined in section 7.2 and 7.3 of the Statute.

#### 2 Grants

- 2.1 Exercising the Committee's responsibility to manage the funds, the following grants are available:
  - a. An eligible person may apply for a <u>grant</u> for any amount to relieve hardship or temporary financial stress. Full financial details and justification are requested in this instance to assess the need. This is done using **Form 1**.
  - b. A Diocesan Bishop may recommend a <u>grant</u> on behalf of an eligible person for amounts of up to \$1,500 without adjudging hardship or temporary financial stress, where a Diocesan Bishop considers such a grant to be pastorally appropriate. This is done using **Form 2**.

### 3 Loans

- 3.1 The following loans are available:
  - a. An eligible person may apply for an interest free <u>loan</u> up to \$5,000 towards the cost of financial planning for retirement. Such a loan does not require any evidence of hardship or temporary financial stress. This is done using **Form 3**.
  - b. An eligible person may apply for an interest free <u>loan</u> up to \$5,000 to relive hardship or temporary financial stress. Full financial details and justification are requested in this instance to assess the need. This is done using **Form 4**.
- Loans are to be repaid over a period not exceeding 60 months and must be repaid in full prior to retirement. A repayment plan is completed as part of the application process.

#### **FORMS**

<u>CRF Form 1 – Application for Grant to Relieve Hardship or Temporary Financial Stress</u> <u>CRF Form 2 – Recommendation for Grant by Diocesan Bishop</u>



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<u>CRF Form 3 – Application for Loan for Financial Planning</u>
<u>CRF Form 4 – Application for Loan to Relieve Hardship or Temporary Financial Stress</u>