



EMC Counselling Benefit for Church Leaders



Board of Leadership and Outreach
Evangelical Mennonite Conference
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EMC Counselling Benefit

Ministers and their families experience all the stresses, emotional pain and grief that people face in life. They also face daunting times when ministry becomes overwhelming. Sometimes speaking to a trained counsellor can help identify underlying causes, give new perspectives and show a way towards better health.

How does it work?

The conference provides a counselling fund to help pastors who have been examined by the EMC examination committee and are serving as ministers in an EMC church. This is also available to their immediate families.

Am I eligible?

To receive the benefit, pastors will seek out a suitable counselling service in their area. These counselling agencies should uphold Christian values and be accountable to a board or other body. They should have qualified counselors who take a holistic approach to mental health including spiritual, chemical and social factors. They should be willing to refer to other qualified health and mental health care professionals if needed. The Conference Pastor or the Director of Canadian Church Planting would be happy to assist in identifying a qualified counselling service. Distance counselling may also be available if nothing suitable is available nearby.

Note:

Please also check your health insurance policy to see if you have coverage for counselling through your provider.

Who do I contact?

Pastors will then contact Layton Friesen, Charles Koop or Erica Fehr with the information about the agency chosen and ask to receive the assistance. Confidentiality will be respected. Once this is arranged, pastors will pay for sessions directly and then mail or email receipt(s) to the Conference Office for reimbursement. Each family is eligible to receive up to \$600 per calendar year.

Contact Information:

Email electronic receipts to efehr@emconference.ca or mail paper receipts to Erica Fehr, 440 Main St., Steinbach, MB R5G 1Z5.

