



THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

November 2018

Dear Clerks of Session, Members of the Presbytery and Chairs of Personnel in Congregations/Presbytery:

We are writing to you at the request of the Committee on Ministry to share with you the Disability program information brochures from the Board of Pensions. This information pertains to you if you are enrolled in the Board of Pensions, are Clerk of Session at a Congregation with an installed minister-member or staff plan member of the Board of Pensions, or if you are Chair of Personnel at a Congregation. We have many clergy who serve in specialized ministry with either Formula of Agreement Partners or in other ministry settings who may also be enrolled with the Board of Pensions and we encourage them to share this information with their employing organization as well.

The information is in the brochures about the outlines of the disability program, both for long and short-term disability. It is important to note that the plan member needs to be unable to perform the duties of their office for 90 days in order to have eligibility for disability. It is the expectation of the Board and the Committee on Ministry that the employing organization as part of its responsibilities cover those first 90-days of salary/housing, social security offset and continues to pay into the medical, dental and pension plans during those first 90-days. This is part of our duty and calling to care for one another.

It is rare that plan members need to use the short- or long-term disability plan but it does happen from time to time. We recently had a situation in the Presbytery that required usage of the plan and found out that it is probably the case that many employing organizations and plan participants within the Presbytery are unaware of how this plan works and so we are including the full information about the plan in the meeting packet for your information.

Of course, if a situation does arise and you are in need of our assistance, know that we are always here to help in any way as well as our Regional Representative to the Board or by calling the Board directly.

It is our joy to serve you in our shared ministry,
Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter, Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk, Rev. Sean Miller and Elder Barbara Riihimaki, co-chairs, Committee on Ministry

