

## Pathways to Renewal *July 1, 2018*

- **What:** A new program by the Board of Pensions to nurture a new generation of ministerial leaders while encouraging churches to pursue anew or grow pastoral leadership.
- **How:** The program offers a dues incentive to congregations that participate in the program to call a new minister.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Congregations of 150 or fewer members, where there has been NO installed pastor and NO election of a Pastor Nominating Committee for at least two years, OR
  - Any congregation with an installed pastor that expands its ministerial staff.
  - Newly installed minister must be under the age of 40 and have never been enrolled in Pastor's Participation previously.

## Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations *January 1, 2019*

- **What:** A new initiative to support the vitality of pastors and the congregations they serve. Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations provides a one-time financial grant to pastors who, in partnership with their congregation, complete a course of study that promotes financial literacy and wholeness.
- **How:**
  - Congregation leaders participate in education about a Theology of Benefits, improving stewardship, and financial realities facing pastors
  - Pastors participate in education about Church budgeting, personal financial planning, and financial stewardship
  - On completion, pastors are eligible for a one-time \$10,000 grant for debt reduction or personal retirement savings

## Minister Educational Debt Assistance Program Expansion *July 1, 2018*

- **What:** Program grants will expand to a new maximum of up to \$5,000 per year for up to five years (total of \$25,000)
- **Eligibility:** Minister must...
  - Be enrolled in Pastor's Participation
  - Have completed in CREDO or Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations
  - Meet criteria to ensure the need-based nature of the program
  - Contribute financially toward education debt reduction according to income-based parameters set by the Board of Pensions

## First Call, First Steps *July 1, 2018*

- **What:** A new seminar by the Board of Pensions for graduating seminarians that discusses practical steps to ensure they are ready to engage effectively in conversation with churches during the call process. Emphasis will be placed on what it means to 'covenant' with a congregation. Seminar topics will include terms of call, the value of benefits, and fair compensation.