**Corporation for the Relief of Widows, Widowers and Children of the Clergy (CWWC)**

The Corporation for the Relief of Widows, Widowers and Children of the Clergy (CWWC) of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State Of New Jersey has existed for more than two centuries as a Contributor organization to benefit clergy widows and widowers. The following questions and answers address the most common inquiries about the Corporation. Attached is the application to become a contributor. If you have questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact Pat Hawkins, Secretary to the Corporation at [phawkins@dioceseofnj.org](mailto:phawkins@dioceseofnj.org) or at 609-349-0210.

**What is its purpose?**

The Corporation was established as a New Jersey Corporation in 1807 to provide financial assistance to widows, widowers and children upon the death of the clergy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New Jersey. Domestic partner participation was added in 1997.

**Who may participate?**

Any clergy - presbyters and deacons - of the church (not over 60 years of age at the time of application) who have been for a period of not less than one year canonically, and actually resident, within the State of New Jersey may become contributors. Membership continues even if the contributor moves out of state, as long as the first three years of membership occur within the State of New Jersey.

**What is the annual cost to contributors?**

The annual contribution is $50. A contributor becomes fully vested after 25 contributions have been made.

**What are the benefits?**

A surviving spouse/domestic partner/civil union partner receives an annual annuity of $120 for life, with additional payments of $60 each for minor children to the age of 21. In addition, the surplus income of the Fund is divided among the beneficiaries of deceased contributors. Thus, in 2023, the total payment per beneficiary was $120 (required payment) plus $1,332 (surplus distribution) for a total distribution of $1,452. If there is no surviving spouse/domestic partner/civil union partner, the full amount of contributions made is refunded to the estate.