

ITEM F. 200 FOR INFORMATION

Expanding Service for Church Leaders with Student Loan Debt

Federally funded student loan forgiveness opportunities expanded in the fall of 2021 following a Supreme Court decision that, when applied to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), struck the qualifying employment exclusion of worshiping, proselytizing, and religious instruction. [New regulations](#) went into effect to expand eligibility to all non-profit employment. To make the expanded eligibility available to people who had not maintained their student loans to achieve loan forgiveness, a limited opportunity waiver was created allowing borrowers to take any or all of the following actions:

- Consolidate federal student loans into the Direct Loan program.
- Preserve the payment history of the federal student loans consolidated into the Direct Loan program.
- Document service retroactively.
- Request refund if the loan was overpaid under the expanded eligibility rules.

The waiver was announced in the Fall of 2021 and will expire on October 31, 2022. This means that pastors and other church workers must act before the end of October 2022 to complete administrative tasks described above to establish eligibility retroactively.

These changes offer a tremendous opportunity for people employed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to find relief from the burden of student loan debt.

Considering the changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) in 2021 and the urgency of the Limited Opportunity Waiver, the office of Financial Aid for Service has:

- Consulted with Board of Pensions staff to coordinate our response to the limited waiver opportunity.
- Suspended the Loan Assistance for Pastors program and the Parent Loan program and reduced loan assistance service to Young Adult Volunteer participants.

Financial Aid for Service's goal is to provide up to 12 webinars and enroll up to 5,000 people in a coaching service by October 31, 2022. People serving in the following Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) roles may be eligible for the coaching service:

- Teaching Elders and church professionals
- church workers serving PC(USA) worshiping communities
- staff serving camps & conference centers; related schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries; and partner organizations
- church corporation and mid-council staff

We are committed to coordinating our efforts with our colleagues at the Board of Pensions. To learn more, or register for a webinar, visit www.pcusa.org/loanassist.