

**BOARD OF PENSIONS  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

<b>Section:</b>	1 (Eligibility)	<b>Subject:</b>	SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES
<b>Rule Number:</b>	111		
<b>Reference:</b>		<b>Resource:</b>	Benefits
<b>Article II, Section 2.1 (Eligible Service)</b>		<b>Original Date:</b>	10/90
Article V, Sections 5.1-5.5		<b>Revision Date:</b>	10/92, 6/95, 4/97, <b>5/00</b> , 8/02
Administrative Rule 305			
Administrative Rule 601			
Administrative Rule 1015			
Administrative Rule 121			

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this rule is to clarify participation options for persons serving in Specialized Ministries.

**Definition of Specialized Ministry:**

The Benefits Plan considers a Minister of the Word and Sacrament employed by an organization not under the jurisdiction of the Church as being in a “specialized ministry” when such employment is validated by the member’s presbytery as an extension of ministry.

**Eligibility for Plan Participation**

A minister member working in a specialized ministry is eligible for Benefits Plan participation provided the member is scheduled to work at least 20 hours per week or more, the minister’s compensation conforms to the Plan’s minimum compensation requirements, and the member’s presbytery provides written confirmation that it has validated the employment as an extension of ministry. Participation in the Benefits Plan is elective at the option of the minister.

**Available Coverage**

A minister member in a specialized ministry may elect participation in the traditional benefits plan or the Affiliated Benefits Program. Optional coverages may also be elected.

**Waiver Options**

A member serving an organization that requires participation in its group benefit plan may waive participation in comparable coverage available through the Benefits Plan.

*Waiver of Medical Coverage or Pension Death and Disability Coverage*

A member in a specialized ministry serving in a country with National Health Care or who is required to participate in her/his employer's group medical plan as a condition of employment may waive medical coverage under the traditional plan but elect participation in pension, death and disability coverage.

The waiver of medical coverage option is not available to members working in a specialized ministry who are self-insured or who have other medical coverage not provided as a result of an employment relationship (e.g. spousal coverage).

To waive medical coverage but continue pension, death and disability participation or vice versa the member's employing organization must send written confirmation that participation in the employer's group medical plan or pension plan is a condition of employment. This information must also be confirmed in writing by the member's presbytery.

The member must also submit a completed form ENR-901 Waiver of Coverage for Specialized Ministries relieving the Board of any liability from loss of benefits.

If medical coverage is waived for 63 days or longer, the Board of Pensions will require proof of prior creditable coverage when the member re-enrolls in the Plan's medical coverage. A limitation will be placed for any pre-existing conditions if proof of prior medical coverage is not provided.

If a member retires from a specialized ministry and medical coverage has been waived, the retired member (and eligible dependents) cannot subscribe for retiree medical unless the member meets the eligibility criteria specified in Administrative Rule 1015.

**Affiliated Benefits Program**

A member in a specialized ministry may elect participation in the Affiliated Benefits Program for medical or medical, death and disability. See Administrative Rule 121 for additional details regarding this program.

**National Health Care Coverage**

The member is serving in a specialized ministry in a country with National Health Care. The member is allowed to waive medical coverage. The member will not be eligible for retiree medical coverage when they retire unless they have medical coverage immediately prior to retirement.

### **Payment of Dues**

Dues can be paid by either the member (when the member is self-employed) or by the employing organization. Dues are remitted based on the member's specialized ministry salary or the minimums whichever are higher. A "9" PIN is assigned to these services.