

## The STP Barnabas Fund

**STP has established a permanent, ongoing Barnabas Counseling Fund on STP's balance sheet initiated by a \$1,000 appropriation from the 2016 STP operating budget. STP member churches and individuals may choose to donate to that fund as they desire, and as needs arise.**

### Explanation:

If and when the MR Committee determines that a Teaching Elder in STP is in need of some counseling resources (counseling services, pastoral retreats, marriage retreats, RBI's new "ServantCare" initiative, etc.), the needed cash resources would be on hand to minister to the Teaching Elder quickly, without a concern for available funds. Although access to these funds would only be available through STP's MR Committee, the committee can decide internally exactly how that will work. For example, although all utilization/distributions of these designated funds must be approved by the MR Committee, the MR Committee Chair has authorization to commit to up to \$500 (prior to MR Committee approval) to address an **acute** TE situation, and then that decision will then be reviewed/approved at the next MR Committee Meeting. As funds are used to assist STP Teaching Elders, appeals could be made to STP member congregations and individuals to replenish the fund.

The new RBI CCEF initiative is a wonderful new resource option for STP member churches, although it requires that STP manage it for its pastors. In STP's case, the MR Committee is the natural committee to oversee and utilize this program.

Any church or individual who would like to make a donation to the Barnabas Fund may do so by sending a check, payable to South Texas Presbytery, with a designation noted on the check for the Barnabas Fund and mailed to the STP Treasurer at:

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