

## **POLICY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PRIEST AND FAMILIES FOR COUNSELING**

1. It is Bishop Brewer's policy to pay through his discretionary fund for up to four (4) visits per family per year for any member of the clergy canonically resident or licensed in this diocese to one of the offices of the Episcopal Counseling Center. Counseling assistance beyond that limit will be considered on a case by case basis upon a written request to Bishop Brewer.
2. Should there be a reason that you prefer to go elsewhere, Bishop Brewer will pay up to one-half the cost of the first four (4) visits per family per year to the therapist of choice for a member of the clergy or his/her spouse of this diocese or any member of his/her immediate family.
3. For the initial four (4) visits per year Bishop Brewer does not need to know the name of the person(s) seeking therapy but expects a letter from the therapist certifying the therapy rendered, omitting the names of the individuals in counseling.
4. We ask - through the therapist - that the clergy file for insurance coverage and reimburse the Bishop's Discretionary Fund in the amount paid by the insurance company.
5. If after four (4) sessions the person involved feels there is real merit in continuing in therapy, and if the financial burden of doing so is a problem, then that person needs to contact the Bishop in writing and he will do what he can to help within the limits of the Discretionary Fund.

*Note: in the instance of counseling provided for a member or the clergy or his/her spouse, the Episcopal Counseling Center does not inform the bishop who they are seeing, or why. They simply bill Bishop Brewer. They will also work out reduced rates for members of the clergy and their families if there is a need for more than four visits.*