

Up to \$3,000 available for ministers of churches with limited budgets

If your church or mission is eligible to participate in the Mission/Church Assistance Fund (MCAF), GuideStone will jump-start your minister's 403(b) retirement plan by contributing up to \$3,000 in financial assistance over a five-year period.

"This program encourages new or small churches to work with GuideStone to make retirement contributions for their pastor," GuideStone president and chief executive officer O.S. Hawkins said. "This is a great opportunity for us to serve those who serve the Lord as pastors at the crossroads."

Eligibility requirements

- A minister must receive taxable income from a Southern Baptist church.
- The church must have an annual budget of less than \$75,000.
- The church is limited to 60 months of MCAF assistance.

How MCAF works

An eligible church enrolls its minister in the Church Retirement Plan (ChRP). In the first year, the mission or church is required to make a monthly contribution to ChRP equal to at least 2% of the minister's housing allowance and salary. A larger percentage can be contributed

"Our commitment to the pastor at the crossroads continues."

Bob Henry, director of Financial Solutions and Services — Churches



if so desired. Over the next four years of MCAF participation, the mission or church is asked to increase this contribution by 2% annually, moving toward a recommended "employer" contribution goal of 10% of salary and housing. Participants can also make contributions.

Each month an employer or participant contribution is made, for up to 60 months, the minister's account also receives \$50 from MCAF. GuideStone offers this incentive of \$600 a year to the minister's retirement account to encourage missions or churches to get their minister started in the Church Retirement Plan.

"Our commitment to the pastor at the crossroads continues," said Bob Henry, director of Financial Solutions and Services — Churches. "I hope more pastors and their churches will look to this as an option to help prepare for their retirement, and whatever stage of ministry the Lord has for them once they reach retirement."