

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC**  
**KATE BITTING REYNOLDS FUND CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**  
**GUIDELINES**

**I. Origin**

The Kate Bitting Reynolds fund was created in 1947 under the Will of Kate Bitting Reynolds, who had died a year earlier at the age of 79. A life-time philanthropist, Mrs. Reynolds' interest were education, orphans, services to the poor, and the church. After bequeathing specific sums to various church organizations and institutions, she established a charitable trust "for the maintenance and support of aged Presbyterian ministers "of North Carolina."

Item 10 in the Will of Mrs. Kate Bitting Reynolds stated, "To my trustees Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) in trust to pay the net income therefrom for the maintenance and support of aged Presbyterian ministers of the Synod of North Carolina as now constituted, the said income to be disbursed semi-annually to such of said ministers as shall be certified by authorities of the Presbyterian Church of the Synod of North Carolina, or its successors, to be entitled to receive the same and in such respective amounts as said authorities shall designate."

Two recommendations adopted by Synod of 1947 and amended at various times through 1987 included the following:

- A. That the Synod of North Carolina accept the trust fund of \$400,000, left to the Synod by Mrs. Kate Bitting Reynolds, for the support of aged ministers, and express its deep appreciation for the legacy.
- B. That hereafter the legacy be known as the "The Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund."

## **II. General Administration**

The management of the assets of the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund is lodged with Wells Fargo Bank as trustee in accordance with the Trust as established by the Will of Kate Bitting Reynolds. The duties of handling the benefits from this legacy for and on behalf of the Synod shall be placed on the Kate B. Reynolds Fund Certification Committee, the successor to the Ministry Group on Care and Development of Church Professionals, which is the successor to the Permanent Committee on Annuities and Relief, which is the successor to the Committee of Ministerial Support and Candidates for the Ministry and Mission Service, or its successor.

## **III. Conditions for Participating in the Fund**

That the following be conditions on which a minister may be eligible to receive benefits from the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund:

- A. In order to participate in the fund, a minister must have the status of being honorably retired as a member of a presbytery of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Church in the United States of America or its successor within the State of North Carolina. If one moves his or her membership from a North Carolina Presbytery, then one forfeits future participation in the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund.
- B. The minister must have served within a presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) which was or is within the State of North Carolina.

- C. Ministerial service in First Presbyterian Church Pageland and Salem Presbyterian Churches (located in South Carolina and subsequently merged into one church)<sup>1</sup> is included.
- D. The minister must have served in a validated ministry as a member of a presbytery within this prescribed area for a total of not less than five years immediately prior to honorable retirement. Service rendered after the date of the minister's honorable retirement shall not be counted for participation in the fund. Membership in a presbytery shall be counted from the day a minister is received and enrolled as a member and shall end on the day of reception by a presbytery outside of North Carolina.
- E. Ministers transferring from other presbyteries to a presbytery within the State of North Carolina at the time of retirement or subsequent thereto for the purpose of participating in the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund, in order to qualify, must have served in a validated ministry as a member of a presbytery within the prescribed area for an aggregate of at least ten years, and if all other qualifications have been met.
- F. The minister must have served in a validated ministry as a member of a presbytery within this prescribed area for a total of not less than five years immediately prior to honorable retirement. Any minister officially retired by a presbytery within the State of North Carolina who qualifies by other rule governing the fund, becomes eligible for participation in the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund from the date of the minister's retirement by the presbytery on an equal basis.

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<sup>1</sup> (Excerpt from Court Order "According to the ruling of the Judge of Superior Court of Forsyth County, N.C.; Synod of North Carolina, or any successor or predecessor Synod, provided that service by a minister in Pageland Presbyterian Church or Salem Presbyterian Church near Pageland, South Carolina shall, so long as such churches remain a part of the Synod of North Carolina or a successor...")

Any minister of a presbytery within the bounds of the State of North Carolina and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic or its successor who has reached 62 years of age shall be eligible for participation in the fund, except as provided for elsewhere in these rules. If a minister shall have been retired from the active ministry because of ill health, the minister may participate in the benefits of the fund at 50 years or over. In as such cases a minister must have served in a presbytery within the prescribed area for a total of not less than 5 years immediately prior to honorable retirement.

G. In order to participate in the fund it is necessary that every eligible minister should supply the stated clerk of the presbytery with the necessary information concerning the minister's status.

H. Service rendered after the date of the minister's honorable retirement shall not be counted for participation in the fund. Membership in a presbytery shall be counted from the day a minister is received and enrolled as a member and shall end on the day of reception by a presbytery outside of North Carolina.

#### **IV. Method of Distributing the Fund**

The method of distribution of the benefits of the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund shall be as follows:

A. The stated clerk of each presbytery shall notify each retired minister upon retirement of the benefits available from the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund.

B. It shall be the duty of the presbytery stated clerk to furnish the Synod's stated clerk, two weeks prior to each meeting of the Certification Committee, a list of all members

of the respective presbyteries who may be eligible for participation in the fund and who have properly applied.

- C. Synod's Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund Certification Committee or its successor shall meet not later than ten days prior to the dates of semi-annual distribution (ordinarily the first week in June and November of each year), and shall certify to Wells Fargo the name, address, and amount of each and every minister to participate in the fund, according to the accepted plan and on the basis of the information submitted by the presbyteries.
- D. All funds available shall be disbursed on an equal basis among the participating ministers at each semi-annual distribution according to the terms of the Will.

## **V. Changes in the Rules**

Changes in these Rules, both as to eligibility and method of distribution of the benefits of the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund, shall be by a majority vote of the Synod.

## **VI. Other Matters**

### **A. Final Estate Distribution**

The surviving dependents of any Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund recipient (or, in lieu thereof, his or her estate) who dies between the dates of distribution of income shall be awarded a payment in the subsequent distribution.

B. Membership Committee

Ordinarily, the stated clerk of the five North Carolina presbyteries shall compose the membership of the Kate Bitting Reynolds Certification Committee. No member serving on the committee charged with the responsibility of the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund shall be participant in the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund.

C. Expense of Committee

Expenses of the committee dealing with the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund shall be borne in part from income received from the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund.

D. Official Date of Retirement

A minister is officially retired when the minister is certified “honorably retired” by a presbytery of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic or its successor as having been honorably retired. The official date of retirement is the date recorded in the records of the PCUSA.

<sup>2</sup> There is a two page (pgs. 7-8 of this document) attachment that offers historical changes to these guidelines.

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC**  
**KATE BITTING REYNOLDS FUND CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**  
**HISTORICAL NOTES ATTACHMENT**

Amend #1 – (June 26, 2019 by removing original document). The Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund was established in 1947 by the Synod of North Carolina. (See Minutes of Synod of North Carolina for that year, pp. 543-545; also annual reports of the Committee on Ministerial Support and, beginning in 1951, of the Permanent Committee on Annuities and Relief and, beginning in 1974, of the Mission Committee on Professional Development, whose name changed to Committee on the Care and Development of Church Professionals, and beginning in 1989 of the Reynolds Fund Certification Committee.)

Amend #2 – (June 26, 2019 by removing from original document). The Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund is administered by the Ministry Group on Care and Development of Church Professionals or its successor. Beginning in 1989, the Reynolds Fund Certification Committee of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) became the successor to the Ministry Group on Care and Development of Church Professionals.

Amend #3 – (June 26, 2019 by removing from original document). Ministers who have served in a presbytery whose bounds extend beyond the State of North Carolina are eligible only if the church or churches which were served were within the State of North Carolina with the exception of those particular churches mentioned by the Superior Court of Forsyth County in North Carolina in its judgment dated July 23, 1984.

Amend #4 – (June 26, 2019 by removing from original document) Concluding paragraph of the order of Forsyth County Superior Court: “NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED,

ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the provisions of SECTION THREE paragraph 10 of the Will of Kate Bitting Reynolds requiring that net income from the trust created under that provision be disbursed to aged Presbyterian ministers of the Synod of North Carolina “as now constituted” have become impracticable of fulfillment, and, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 36A 53, the Synod of North Carolina, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, N.A., Trustee, or any successor trustee, are hereby authorized to pay the net income of the trust for the maintenance and support of aged Presbyterian ministers who have served as ministers of presbyteries in North Carolina of the Synod of North Carolina, or any successor or predecessor Synod, provided that service by a minister in Pageland Presbyterian Church or Salem Presbyterian Church near Pageland, South Carolina shall, so long as such churches remain a part of the Synod of North Carolina or a successor Synod, shall be counted toward service requirements for participation in the fund, and further provided that the right of any minister to participate in the fund and the amount of his or her participation is further subject to certification by the authorities of the Presbyterian Church of the Synod of the North Carolina or its successors, in their sole discretion, according to such rules and regulations as shall be adopted by the Synod from time to time.”

This the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 1984.

William Z. Wood

Judge of Superior Court of Forsyth County, N.C.

Amend #5 (June 26, 2019 – Removal from the original document). See Minutes of Synod’s Permanent Committee on Annuities and relief, March 8, 1960, and March 3, 1961; also action of Synod, 1960 Minutes of Synod of North Carolina, pp. 159-160.