

Note on Benefits from the Stated Clerk – Please Invite Treasurers and Finance Chairs to the April 25 meeting

Dear Friends in PNNE,

I am writing to let you know that there will be significant changes to the Board of Pensions medical benefits in 2025. The Board of the Board of Pensions will meet later this month to decide on what those changes will be. As we prepare for these changes, we have invited Carrie Mitchell, our regional Church Consultant from the Board of Pensions to our Presbytery meeting on April 25 to explain the changes and answer questions. This meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Zoom. We are encouraging all congregations to invite their finance chairs and treasurers to attend the meeting. Carrie Mitchell's presentation will take place early in the docket. I expect her to start speaking at 6:15pm.

Our Resource Presbytery, Scott DeBlock, and I have been keeping track of this as it developed. I attended a feedback session with the Board of Pensions staff in the Spring of 2023. I tried to advocate on behalf of our Presbytery and especially small rural congregations who struggle to afford benefits for their pastors and staff. During those meetings, I felt like our concerns were heard and respected. These changes are coming because healthcare is becoming more expensive, and the Board of Pensions is determined to continue to provide good health benefits that are as affordable as possible. I don't know exactly what the changes will be. But whatever they are, please know that our voice was heard and that the Board has worked hard to find the best possible solution within the context of a profoundly broken healthcare system.

I hope to see many of you at the Presbytery meeting on April 25.

Peace,  
T. J. DeMarco, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Northern New England