

**"RELIEF OF CONSCIENCE" REQUEST
THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND
SUBSCRIPTION MEMBERS OF THE BENEFITS PLAN**

Subscription (Self-Paying) Members of the Benefits Plan shall make application for relief of conscience based on their opposition to the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) making payments for abortions by taking the following steps:

1. The Subscription Member shall make direct application for relief of conscience, using this form.
2. A copy of the completed form shall be mailed to the Stated Clerk of Northumberland Presbytery.
3. The Stated Clerk shall forward all requests to the Committee on Ministry of Northumberland Presbytery.
4. The Committee on Ministry shall make recommendation to Northumberland Presbytery on the request of the Member.
5. Northumberland Presbytery shall act on the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry.
6. All requests approved by Northumberland Presbytery shall be reported by the Stated Clerk to both the Member and the Board of Pensions.

I certify that I am a continuing member of Northumberland Presbytery, serving in the following capacity: _____
I certify that I have no Benefit Plan dues paid by any employing organization, and that I am an active member of the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Based on my opposition to the Benefits Plan making payments for abortions, I request that Northumberland Presbytery affirm my application for relief of conscience.

ATTEST: _____

DATE: _____

**"RELIEF OF CONSCIENCE" REQUEST
THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND
EMPLOYING ORGANIZATIONS/PLAN MEMBERS SERVING THEM**

Employing Organizations or Benefits Plan Members of serving them (ministers or lay employees) shall make application for relief of conscience based on opposition to the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) making payments for abortions by taking the following steps:

1. The process begins with the governing board of the employing organization, at the request of the Plan Member(s) and/or on its own initiative, taking action to request Northumberland Presbytery to affirm their eligibility to receive relief of conscience. Plan Members must make application through the employing organization.
2. Upon action of the employing organization, a responsible officer shall complete this form and mail a copy of it to the Stated Clerk of Northumberland Presbytery.
3. The Stated Clerk shall forward all requests to the Committee on Ministry of Northumberland Presbytery.
4. The Committee on Ministry shall make recommendation to Northumberland Presbytery on the request of the employing organization.
5. Northumberland Presbytery shall act on the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry.
6. All requests approved by Northumberland Presbytery shall be reported by the Stated Clerk to both the employing organization and to the Board of Pensions.

The _____ (Board) of the _____
(Employing Organization) acted at its _____ meet-
ing to approve the following request to Northumberland Presbytery:

Based on opposition to the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) making payments for abortions, the <employing organization> requests that Northumberland Presbytery affirm its application for relief of conscience.

This action was taken at the request of:

_____ Employing Organization _____ Plan Member _____ Both

ATTEST: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

**"RELIEF OF CONSCIENCE" REQUEST
THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND
SESSIONS/PLAN MEMBERS SERVING CHURCHES**

Sessions or Members of the Benefits Plan serving churches (ministers or lay employees) shall make application for relief of conscience based on opposition to the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) making payments for abortions by taking the following steps:

1. The process begins with the Session, at the request of the Plan Member(s) and/or on its own initiative, taking action to request Northumberland Presbytery to affirm their eligibility to receive relief of conscience. Plan Members must make application through their Session.
 2. Upon action of the Session, the Clerk of Session shall complete this form and mail a copy of it to the Stated Clerk of Northumberland Presbytery.
 3. The Stated Clerk shall forward all requests to the Committee on Ministry of Northumberland Presbytery.
 4. The Committee on Ministry shall make recommendation to Northumberland Presbytery on the request of the particular session.
 5. Northumberland Presbytery shall act on the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry.
 6. All requests approved by Northumberland Presbytery shall be reported by the Stated Clerk to both the Session and the Board of Pensions.
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The Session of _____ Presbyterian Church,
(name)
_____, acted at its _____
(location)

meeting to approve the following request to Northumberland
Presbytery:

Based on opposition to the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian
Church (U.S.A.) making payments for abortions, the Session
requests that Northumberland Presbytery affirm its application
for relief of conscience.

This action was taken at the request of:

_____ Session _____ Plan Member _____ Both

ATTEST: _____
(Clerk of Session)

DATE: _____

**THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND**

November 13, 1992

FROM: The Committee on Ministry, Presbytery of Northumberland
TO: Clerks of Sessions and Clergy Members of the Presbytery
RE: Benefits Plan "Capture of Dues" Process

The 204th General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) adopted a "capture of dues" policy as a way of providing relief of conscience for dues-paying congregations and for members of the Benefits Plan who may object to the funding of abortions under the Plan's Major Medical coverage. The dues "captured" will represent the percentage of all major medical dollars spent on abortion procedures in the previous year; it is our understanding that these funds will be used to pay for birth-related expenses of children being adopted by members of the Benefits Plan.

The Board of Pensions will implement such requests when they are verified by the presbytery of which a congregation or self-paying Plan member is a part. Enclosed with the letter are three different forms which may be used to make such requests for "capture of dues." If you wish to apply for this relief, choose the form that is appropriate for your situation.

Approved requests will not result in a reduction of Benefits Plan premiums, but will insure that no dues paid by a particular congregation or Plan member will be used to fund any abortion procedures, once this approval has been granted.

Enclosures