

## THE ELCSA (N-T) VIOLENCE + TRAUMA FUND RULES 2009

This Fund was established by Synod in Durban in 1997 to provide financial relief to victims of violence within the ELCSA (N-T). The Rules were amended in November 2007 to widen the scope of assistance offered to include trauma unrelated to violence (loss of employment, illness, death, etc)

The Rules of this Fund were described as:

1. The ownership of the Fund vests in the ELCSA (N-T)
2. Participating Congregations
  - 2.1 Congregations of ELCSA (N-T) shall be made aware of the fund and individual members of ELCSA (N-T) can then apply for assistance from the Fund.
3. Contributions
  - 3.1 Each participating congregation shall contribute not less than R100 per member (18-65) per year for 2 years; after this initial period congregations and individuals shall be reminded to make annual donations.
  - 3.2 Contributions shall be paid over to the Fund monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually;
  - 3.3 The manner in which the congregations raise the contributions is for the congregation to decide.
4. Fund Managers
  - 4.1 The Fund shall be administered by the Finance Committee of church council.
5. Investments
6. The investment of all monies shall be done with the general ELCSA (N-T) funds and interest allocated on a pro rata basis.
6. Distribution of Benefits
  - 6.1 Applications for benefits shall be made in writing and submitted to the chairman of the Finance Committee (or General Manager) on behalf of the person in need by his/her pastor or congregational council or the circuit council in whose area the victim is normally resident.
  - 6.2 Details of the facts giving rise to the application, as well as the victim's personal financial situation as well as financial requirements from the Fund must be given;
  - 6.3 All applications shall be handled in the strictest confidence;
  - 6.4 The decisions by the Finance Committee shall be by consensus and shall be recorded in writing;
  - 6.5 The decisions by the Finance Committee shall be final.
  - 6.6 The Finance Committee shall report annually to Church Council and reports to Synod are to be incorporated in the accounts submitted to it by the Treasurer of ELCSA (N-T).
7. Dissolution
  - 7.1 For as long as applications for assistance are received, and funds distributed, the Fund shall not be dissolved;
  - 7.2 Synod may terminate the Fund on advice from the Finance Committee and agreement by Church Council;
  - 7.3 Any funds remaining after dissolution shall be paid to the ELCSA (N-T).