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March 22, 2020

Dear Bishop:

Over the past several days, we have been thinking about ways the Church Pension Group can help alleviate some of the financial and emotional burdens of responding to the coronavirus. This unprecedented pandemic has taken a toll on our Church, and our people and institutions are suffering. I am writing to let you know that there are a number of things we can do immediately to lighten the load and support the clergy, lay employees, and congregations of the Episcopal Church. We will be sending <u>this letter</u> to clients describing a number of programs we have put into place, *and some of them require action from you.* 

Our help ranges from offering your neediest and hardest hit congregations temporary waivers of Clergy Pension Plan assessments owed to The Church Pension Fund, to offering temporary access to digital worship materials free of charge. The Episcopal Church Medical Trust is waiving deductibles and other out-of-pocket expenses associated with testing and treatment for COVID-19 for its members, and we will be hosting informational webinars on stress management and the coronavirus.

Please take a moment to read the letter linked above, which we plan to release to all of our clients in the coming week.

Some of you will recall that we have offered temporary waivers of clergy pension assessments after other major disasters. We have simplified the process a great deal, which we hope will make it easier for you to get help for your neediest parishes. Just complete the <u>form</u> and return it to the CPG Account Manager in your region for processing. You can find your account manager at <u>cpg.org/ibams</u>.

We continue to evaluate additional, mission appropriate ways to help the Church at this time. We will keep you posted on our thinking and we welcome any ideas you might have. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Mary Late Wold

Mary Kate Wold CEO and President

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