

Information Sheet for April 7 Church Conference

The CARES Act passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on March 27 includes the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses. Non-profits (including churches) are included in this program designed to try to keep workers employed and paid during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program offers loans through the Small Business Administration. Funds used for payroll, mortgage payments, rent, and utilities are eligible for loan forgiveness as long as certain employment parameters are met. There will be no payments for 6 months on the loan, and the interest rate will be 1%.

Shearer Hills is eligible to apply for approximately \$250,000. We anticipate that at least \$215,000 of that will be forgiven. The program would cover payroll for church and Early Learning Center staff as well as utilities costs. This is particularly important for ELC because ELC revenue has ceased due to the closure mandated by the Emergency Orders.

The Finance Committee met on March 31 via Zoom and those present unanimously voted on the following statement: *The Finance Committee recommends and moves that the church body borrow the maximum amount available under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) as soon as possible. The Finance Committee anticipates that the amount will be approximately \$250,000 but it recommends that any amounts available under the PPP should be borrowed.*

We have called a church conference for Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00pm to discuss this recommendation via the Zoom video conferencing platform. The link to participate in the meeting will be available on the church website and distributed through email.

We encourage everyone to continue supporting the church through tithes and offerings, and we remain committed to practicing good stewardship of all resources in not only supporting staff but also ministering in our community and beyond.

For more related information, you may be interested in seeing [these resources](#) from Texas Baptists.

The Small Business Administration has also released [FAQs for Faith-Based Organizations](#).