

OSKIN
Tax Services
WHERE PEOPLE COME FIRST

DEMYSTIFYING CLERGY TAXES

THE REV. DEB OSKIN, ENROLLED AGENT
BRETHREN ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP
BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WEBINAR

SATURDAY
JANUARY 16
2021

OUTLINE

- Clergy Status + Clergy Services = Clergy Taxes
- Paying Your Taxes
- Reducing Total Tax: 1. Opt Out
- Reducing Total Tax: 2. Housing Exclusion
- Retired Clergy
- Reducing Total Tax: 3. Business Expenses
- Reducing Total Tax: 4. Health Insurance
- Coronavirus 2020: Economic Impact Payments

BUT FIRST, ABOUT ME

- 1989: Adventures with Clergy taxes begin!
(husband was ordained; I was ordained in 2004)
- 2000-2011: H&R Block Master Tax Advisor &
Certified Advanced Instructor at a Premium Office;
On my own since 2011: 75% Clergy Clients
- 2004: Started Teaching & Presenting on Clergy
Taxes!
- 2007: Earned Enrolled Agent License from
Department of Treasury; 2011: NTPI Fellow:
3-year course in Advanced Audit Representation

WAYS TO CONTACT ME

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ABOUT MY WEBSITE

- Website: <https://www.OskinTax.com>
 - Pages:
 - Home
 - My Story
 - Procedures
 - TaxDome
 - Resources
 - Appointment Scheduling
 - Contact Me

APPOINTMENTS
are free!

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$$\begin{array}{l} (1) \text{ CLERGY STATUS +} \\ (2) \text{ CLERGY SERVICES} \\ \hline = (3) \text{ CLERGY TAXES} \end{array}$$

WHO IS a MINISTER?

- According to Congress (& IRS), a "Minister" is someone who:
 - Is duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed by a religious body constituting a church or church denomination (not in reference to any particular religion).
 - This includes Ministers, Rabbis, Cantors, Imams, & Christian Science Practitioners.

WHO IS a MINISTER?

- The "Minister" is authorized to:
 - Conduct religious worship
 - Perform sacerdotal ("priestly") functions
 - Administer ordinances or sacraments

WHAT DOES THE MINISTER DO?

- Ministry Services:
 - Performing sacerdotal ("priestly") functions
 - Conducting religious worship
 - Performing services for nonreligious organizations when assigned or designated by the Minister's church or faith community
 - If not assigned by the church, if they involve sacerdotal functions or conducting religious worship

WHAT DOES THE MINISTER DO?

- Writing religious books or articles
- Controlling, conducting, & maintaining religious organizations, boards, societies, & other integral agencies under the authority of a religious body
- Directing, managing, or promoting the organization's activities

WHAT DOES THE MINISTER DO?

- Services performed at a church-related hospital or health & welfare institution
- Services performed at a private nonprofit hospital
- But not services performed at a government hospital or other government entity

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BOTTOM LINE

IF: You Are a Minister

**AND: You Provide
Ministry Services**

**THEN: Special Tax
Rules Apply To You!**

(yes, prayer is appropriate.)



CLERGY INCOME

CLERGY INCOME

- There are actually 3 types of Ministry income:
 - Salary . . .
reported on the W-2 in Box 1
 - Housing Exclusion . . .
reported on the W-2 in Box 14
 - Self-Employment or Honoraria . . .
reported on Schedule C

CLERGY INCOME

- The following income is subject to Clergy Tax Rules:
 - Salaries & fees for Ministry services
 - Offerings received for marriages, baptisms, funerals, masses, etc.
 - Any amount an employer pays their Minister employee toward his/her federal income tax or self-employment tax (not including amounts withheld)

GROSS-UP

- Gross-Up
 - Employers of non-Minister employees are required to pay half of the FICA taxes due for those employees.
 - Sometimes these employers want to do the same for their Minister employees; however, it is against the law for employers to withhold & pay FICA taxes for Minister employees.

GROSS-UP

- By giving the Minister employee the half of FICA that the employer would pay if the employee were not a Minister, the employer is essentially giving the Minister employee half of the self-employment tax the Minister employee must pay on his/her own tax return.
- (Never turn down extra cash!)
- However, after income taxes are paid on that extra amount, the employee is left with less than the employer intended.

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GROSS-UP

- IRS gives a formula for "grossing-up" these payments to employees, so that when income taxes are taken on the increased amount, the employee still receives the amount the employer intended.
- The total extra amount is included in the Minister's wages in Box 1, and is subject to both federal income tax & self-employment tax.

GROSS-UP

- To calculate tax gross-up, follow these 4 steps:
 - Add up all federal, state, & local tax rates.
 - Subtract the total tax rates from the number 1:
 $1.00 - \text{tax} = \text{net percent}$
 - Divide the net payment by the net percent:
 $\text{net payment} / \text{net percent} = \text{gross payment}$
 - Check your answer by calculating gross payment to net payment.

GIFTS VS. SALARY

- Gifts vs. Salary:
 - While the Minister employee continues to serve, Courts have ruled that most "gifts" or special offerings are compensation for services.
 - Retirement gifts to departing Ministers are usually gifts (per the Courts), as there's no expectation of services in the future.
 - Gifts from individual members of the congregation to the Minister are unlikely to be gifts; however, each situation could be different.

NON-SALARY INCOME

- The following income is subject to Clergy Tax Rules:
 - Fair Rental Value (FRV) of a Parsonage (including utilities paid by the congregation) provided to the Minister employee
 - Housing exclusion paid to the Minister employee
 - Value of meals & lodging provided for the Minister & his/her family for the employer's convenience

NON-SALARY INCOME

- Congregational "Free Minister" with no compensation from the congregation:
 - If not reimbursed under an Accountable Plan, the Minister's expenses are cash charitable contributions (regular Schedule A rules apply)
- Congregational "Free Minister" with no compensation from the congregation, but living in the Parsonage:
 - FRV of Parsonage = Minister's compensation, entered in W-2 Box 14 (W-2 Box 1 = \$0)

NOT SUBJECT TO CLERGY TAX

- The following income is not subject to Clergy Tax Rules:
 - Offerings made to the congregation by others.
 - Contributions by the congregation to a qualified 403(b) retirement plan set up for the Minister employee.
 - Pre-tax salary reduction contributions by the Minister employee to a qualified 403(b) retirement plan.

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NOT SUBJECT TO CLERGY TAX

- The following income is not subject to Clergy Tax Rules:
 - Income from services performed as a duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed Minister of the church . . .

As an employee of the United States, the District of Columbia, a foreign government, or any of their political subdivisions – even if performing sacerdotal functions or conducting religious worship

NOT SUBJECT TO CLERGY TAX

- The following income is not subject to Clergy Tax Rules:
 - Income from services performed in a government owned-&-operated hospital (e.g., chaplains at a VA hospital or a state-controlled University hospital)
 - Income from other services performed for non-religious organizations (not listed earlier)

CLERGY TAXES

CLERGY TAXES

- Ministers are not subject to some taxes that most employees are subject to:
 - FICA: Social Security & Medicare Taxes
 - Payroll Taxes: Unemployment
- Ministers are, however, subject to 2 other taxes:
 - Federal Income Tax
 - Self-Employment Tax (usually the largest tax balance due affecting Ministers)

CLERGY TAX RULES

- All Ministry income is subject to self-employment tax.
- All Ministry income is subject to federal income tax, unless properly excluded by a designated housing exclusion.
- Employers are prohibited by law from withholding & paying FICA taxes for their Minister employee.
- Employers must issue a W-2 to their Minister employee. A 1099-NEC can only be issued to non-employee Clergy (e.g., Supply Preachers).

CLERGY W-2

Employer's social security number		State, accurate, FICA Use		Visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov	
00-0000000		00-00-0000			
1 Wages, tips, other compensation		2 Federal income tax withheld			
\$13,800.00		\$4,069.31			
3 Social security wages		4 Social security tax withheld			
5 Medicare wages and tips		6 Medicare tax withheld			
7 Social security tips		8 Allocated tips			
9 Control number		10 Dependent care benefits			
11 Nonqualified plans		12a See instructions for line 12			
		E \$1,200.00			
13 Housing exclusion		14 Other			
\$15,000.00					
15 State, local income tax		16 Local income tax			
\$13,800.00		\$13,800.00			
17 State income tax		18 Local income tax			
19 State income tax		20 Local income tax			

Form **W-2** Wage and Tax Statement **2020** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service

Copy B—To Be Filed With Employee's FEDERAL Tax Return.
This information is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

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1099-NEC

☐ CORRECTED (if checked)

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.

2020 Form 1099-NEC

Nonemployee Compensation

Copy B For Recipient

1 Nonemployee compensation \$

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4 Federal income tax withheld \$

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6 State tax withheld \$

7 State income \$

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**"Demystifying Clergy Taxes"
Saturday, January 16, 2021**

**Bethany Theological Seminary &
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership**

FORM W-4

Form W-4 Employee's Withholding Certificate

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

OMB No. 1545-0047

2020

Step 1: Enter Personal Information

(a) First name and middle initial Last name (b) Social security number

Address

City or town, state, and ZIP code

(c) ☐ Single or Married filing separately ☐ Married filing jointly (or Qualifying widow(er)) ☐ Head of household (Check only if you're unmarried and pay more than half the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and a qualifying individual.)

Complete Steps 2-4 ONLY if they apply to you; otherwise, skip to Step 5. See page 2 for more information on each step, who can claim exemption from withholding, when to use the online estimator, and privacy.

Step 2: Multiple Jobs or Spouse Works

Complete this step if you (1) hold more than one job at a time, or (2) are married filing jointly and your spouse also works. The correct amount of withholding depends on income earned from all of these jobs. Do only one of the following.

(a) Use the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App for most accurate withholding for this step (and Steps 3-4); or

(b) Use the Multiple Jobs Worksheet on page 3 and enter the result in Step 4(c) below for roughly accurate withholding; or

(c) If there are only two jobs total, you may check this box. Do the same on Form W-4 for the other job. This option is accurate for jobs with similar pay; otherwise, more tax than necessary may be withheld. ☐ **TIP:** To be accurate, submit a 2020 Form W-4 for all other jobs. If you (or your spouse) have self-employment income, including as an independent contractor, use the estimator.

Complete Steps 3-4(b) on Form W-4 for only ONE of these jobs. Leave those steps blank for the other jobs. (Your withholding will be most accurate if you complete Steps 3-4(b) on the Form W-4 for the highest paying job.)

FORM W-4

Step 3: Claim Dependents

If your income will be \$200,000 or less (\$400,000 or less if married filing jointly):

Multiply the number of qualifying children under age 17 by \$2,000 ▶ \$

Multiply the number of other dependents by \$500 . . . ▶ \$

Add the amounts above and enter the total here **3** \$

Step 4 (optional): Other Adjustments

(a) Other income (not from jobs). If you want tax withheld for other income you expect this year that won't have withholding, enter the amount of other income here. This may include interest, dividends, and retirement income **4(a)** \$

(b) Deductions. If you expect to claim deductions other than the standard deduction and want to reduce your withholding, use the Deductions Worksheet on page 3 and enter the result here **4(b)** \$

(c) **Extra withholding. Enter any additional tax you want withheld each pay period** . . . **4(c)** \$

Step 5: Sign Here

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that this certificate, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true, correct, and complete.

Employee's signature (This form is not valid unless you sign it.) **Date**

Employers Only

Employer's name and address First date of employment Employer identification number (EIN)

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see page 3. Cat. No. 10220Q Form **W-4** (2020)

FORM W-4

- Line-by-line instructions for 2020 Form W-4 (continued):
 - Step 1: Personal Information
 - (c) Filing Status. I recommend that married Ministers check the 1st box, "Single or Married Filing Separately." This allows the employer to maximize the income tax withheld.

FORM W-4

- Step 2: Multiple Jobs or Spouse Works
 - Skip this section
- Step 3: Claim Dependents
 - Enter "0" (Zero) on the far right column. Remember, the idea is to maximize the income taxes withheld from the paycheck, so Ministers don't face a balance due at the end of the year.

FORM W-4

- Step 4 (optional): Other Adjustments
 - (a) Other income (not from jobs)
 - Skip this section
 - (b) Deductions
 - Skip this section

FORM W-4

- Step 4 (optional): Other Adjustments
 - (c) Extra Withholding
 - This is the most critical entry on this form! This entry allows Ministers to withhold enough federal income tax to cover their expected self-employment tax bill.
 - The first step is to calculate your total self-employment tax for the year.

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FORM W-4

- Step 1: Calculate your total Ministry compensation by adding salary, housing, parsonage FRV, & any honoraria expected.
- Step 2: Multiply total Ministry compensation by 0.9235;
- Step 3: Multiply the result of Step 2 by 0.153: This amount is the total self-employment tax due for the year on total Ministry compensation.

FORM W-4

- Step 4: Add the number of remaining paychecks the employee will receive for the year.
 - Employees who are paid every other week receive a total of 26 paychecks in a year
 - Employees who are paid twice a month will receive a total of 24 paychecks in a year

FORM W-4

- Employees who are paid once a month will receive a total of 12 paychecks in a year (etc.)
- Step 5: Divide the result of Step 3 by the result of Step 4, and enter the result on Line 6.
- Having this additional amount withheld helps ensure that enough withholding occurs to cover the Minister employee's self-employment tax.

FORM W-4

- Note: This amount is a goal, so that the Minister employee has enough withheld to pay his/her self-employment tax.
- Minister employees should consider their personal budgets and cash flow to make sure they can afford to have this amount of money withheld from every paycheck.

ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENTS

- If the Minister's employer isn't willing or able to withhold income and additional taxes for him/her, s/he must make estimated tax payments.
- Commonly called "quarterly taxes," the due dates for estimated taxes are NOT quarterly! They are due as follows:
 - Voucher 1: April 15 (or the filing date)
 - Voucher 2: June 15
 - Voucher 3: September 15
 - Voucher 4: January 15

ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENTS

- How much should be paid?
 - Start by calculating the total self-employment tax due for the year.
 - Next, check the prior year tax return to add any amount owed that year.
 - Ministers can also use the estimated tax worksheets, but should use "0" for all allowance amounts in the worksheets.
 - Add these amounts together and divide by 4.

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**"Demystifying Clergy Taxes"
Saturday, January 16, 2021**

**Bethany Theological Seminary &
Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership**

FORM 1040-ES

Form 1040-ES Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service		2021 Estimated Tax		Payment Voucher 1 OMB No. 1545-0074	
File only if you are making a payment of estimated tax by check or money order. Mail this voucher with your check or money order payable to "United States Treasury." Write your social security number and "2020 Form 1040-ES" on your check or money order. Do not send cash. Enclose, but do not staple or attach, your payment with this voucher.					
Your first name and middle initial		Your last name		Your social security number	
If joint payment, complete for spouse					
Spouse's first name and middle initial		Spouse's last name		Spouse's social security number	
Address (number, street, and apt. no.)					
City, state, and ZIP code. (If a foreign address, enter city, also complete spaces below.)					
Foreign country name		Foreign province/county		Foreign postal code	
For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see instructions.					

Form 1040-ES (2021)

REDUCING TOTAL TAX: 1. OPT-OUT

OPT-OUT

- Ministers who have taken a vow of poverty or whose earnings are sent directly to their order are automatically exempt from self-employment tax.
- Other Ministers can opt-out of the Social Security & Medicare system for moral or religious reasons – but they must be morally opposed to any form of public old-age or medical insurance.
- This election is irrevocable.

OPT-OUT

Form 4361 (Rev. January 2011) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders and Christian Science Practitioners	OMB No. 1545-0074 File Original and Two Copies
---	---	--

File original and two copies and attach supporting documents. This exemption is granted only if the IRS returns a copy to you marked "approved."

- Form 4361 must be filed by the due date of the 2nd tax return showing any Ministry income (years do not need to be consecutive).
- It is not in effect until approved by the IRS.
- Ministers will not accumulate any quarters for eligibility in Social Security & Medicare from Ministry income (40 quarters required).

OPT-OUT

Form 4361 (Rev. January 2011) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders and Christian Science Practitioners	OMB No. 1545-0074 File Original and Two Copies
---	---	--

File original and two copies and attach supporting documents. This exemption is granted only if the IRS returns a copy to you marked "approved."

- Ministers are still entitled to Social Security & Medicare benefits received due to secular work &/or due to spouse's secular work.
- Can pay the full Medicare premium for benefits.
- But be careful: There's a narrow window of 3 months before & 3 months after month of 65th birthday (7 months total) to sign up for Medicare – or pay increased premiums for years to come.

REDUCING TOTAL TAX: 2. DESIGNATED HOUSING EXCLUSION

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HOUSING EXCLUSION

- The Minister's housing exclusion is called by many names, yet they all represent the same thing: the mechanism by which Ministers are permitted to exclude some of their income from being subject to federal income tax.
 - Housing allowance or exclusion
 - Parsonage allowance or exclusion
 - Rental allowance or exclusion
 - Utilities allowance or exclusion

HOUSING EXCLUSION

- Ordained, commissioned, or licensed Ministers performing Ministry services should* designate all or part of their total compensation from their employer as housing exclusion.
- The amount designated as housing exclusion can then be excluded from income for federal income tax purposes (subject to certain rules).

HOUSING EXCLUSION

- However, all Ministry income is subject to self-employment tax, including both the officially designated housing exclusion &/or the Fair Rental Value (FRV) of a provided Parsonage.



TYPICAL HOUSING EXPENSES

HOUSING EXPENSES:

rent/mortgage payments (in full)
real estate taxes (in full)
renter's/homeowner's insurance
homeowner's assn./condo fees
repairs & maintenance
furnishings & decorations
lawn care & snow removal
cleaning services
etc.

UTILITIES:

electricity
heating oil
natural gas
water/sewer/trash
pest control
security systems
internet/tv
land-line phone OR
personal-use cell phone
etc.

SUPPLY PREACHERS

- Rules for Clergy Serving as Supply Preachers:
 - The official designation of a housing exclusion amount can be made by the congregation who holds the Minister's membership & to whom s/he is accountable.
 - This is also true for the Minister's pension payments from a qualified 403(b) retirement plan, if not already designated by the plan.

SUPPLY PREACHERS

- Rules for Clergy Serving as Supply Preachers:
 - Language used by the congregation can include something similar to "100% of all income received from Clergy services is designated as housing exclusion, until further notice."
 - If this designation has been made, no IRS reporting is required. A copy of this statement should be given to the Supply Preacher on official letterhead to keep in his/her files.

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Clergy Housing Allowance Exclusion Items

- ◆ Home:
 - ◆ mortgage or rent payments in full (including principal, interest, escrow, & fees)
 - ◆ home equity loans or lines of credit (if used for housing)
 - ◆ appraisals, closing costs, title insurance, points paid on mortgage or refinance
 - ◆ homeowners or renters insurance, personal umbrella insurance
 - ◆ real estate or property taxes
 - ◆ homeowners or condo association fees
 - ◆ assessments or fees
- ◆ Maintenance:
 - ◆ brooms, mops, vacuum cleaners, swiffers, steam cleaners, spot cleaners, etc.
 - ◆ cleaning supplies, floor cleaners, surface cleaners, window cleaners, etc.
 - ◆ professional cleaning service
 - ◆ dish & dishwasher detergent, sponges, scrubbers, etc.
 - ◆ paper towels, paper plates, paper napkins, plastic silverware, etc.
 - ◆ laundry supplies, hampers, baskets, detergent, dryer sheets, etc.
 - ◆ plants, seeds, gardening tools, etc.
 - ◆ professional lawn care, landscaping, gutter cleaning, winter snow removal, etc.
- ◆ Repairs:
 - ◆ tools, miscellaneous hardware
 - ◆ batteries, light bulbs
 - ◆ interior & exterior painting, painting supplies
 - ◆ replacing flooring, drywall, windows & screens, siding, roof, etc.
- ◆ Furnishings & Appliances:
 - ◆ furniture & artwork
 - ◆ carpets & rugs
 - ◆ decorative wall & shelf items
 - ◆ electronics (tv, entertainment media & players, computer, printer, supplies, etc.)
 - ◆ appliances, supplies, warranties, repairs (refrigerator, stove, microwave, slow cooker, dishwasher, washer/dryer, portable a/c, portable heaters, etc.)
 - ◆ kitchenware, pots & pans, baking sheets, cooking implements, etc.
 - ◆ dishes, glassware, table settings, silverware, etc.
 - ◆ curtains, window coverings, wall coverings, etc.
 - ◆ linens for dining room (tablecloths, table runners, place mats, etc.); bathroom (towels, hand towels, washcloths, etc.); bedroom (sheets, blankets, comforters, quilts, etc.)
 - ◆ appraisal fees
- ◆ Utilities:
 - ◆ electric, natural gas, heating oil, propane, kerosene, water, sewer, trash, pest control, firewood (including cost of delivery or hauling), etc.
 - ◆ cable or satellite tv, streaming services, internet, etc.
 - ◆ land-line phone bill, cost of purchasing or leasing land-line telephone equipment . . .
 - ◆ . . . OR personal-use percent of total cost of cell phone bill & equipment –
but only if there is NO land-line (calculation instructions follow)

- ◆ How to calculate the personal-use amount of your cell phone bill:
 - ◆ If you do not share your plan with anyone else:
 - (1) add up your voice minutes used for personal calls
 - (2) divide into the total minutes used
 - (3) multiply that percentage by the total bill
 - (4) this is the dollar value for your personal use of the cell phone & can be used as a housing allowance exclusion item.
 - ◆ If you share your plan with others:
 - (1) divide the "shared" portion of the plan that is in addition to each individual's usage by the number of people sharing the plan
 - (2) add that dollar amount to the cost attributed to your usage alone
 - (3) then add up your voice minutes used for personal calls
 - (4) divide by the total minutes you used
 - (5) multiply that percentage to the cost attributed to your usage alone PLUS your portion of the shared cost
 - (6) this is the dollar value for your personal use of the cell phone & can be used as a housing allowance exclusion item
 - (7) repeat individually for each person on your plan who resides in your household; be aware that other adults in the household may have business- or work-related calls that do not qualify as personal-use for the purposes of the housing allowance exclusion.
 - ◆ Note: the remaining amount of your cell phone bill that does not relate to personal use might be deductible as business use of your cell phone.

Income That May Be Excluded from Taxable Income

The amount of income that can be excluded from federal income taxable income (but not federal self-employment income) is the smallest of the following three amounts: (1) the amount properly designated in writing as the housing allowance amount before payments to clergy begin; (2) the amount actually spent to provide the home during the calendar year (see list above); and (3) the Fair Rental Value of the home during the calendar year.

- ◆ Fair Rental Value of the Home: The amount it would cost someone else to rent the home you live in, if you walked out the door & left everything but your clothes, food, & toiletries behind. Fully furnished, including the cost of utilities. This value cannot be calculated precisely.
- ◆ If you live in a congregation-owned Parsonage:

THEN this number should be on the LOW end of reasonable.

The Fair Rental Value of a congregation-owned Parsonage is added to your income for the purposes of Self-Employment Tax, so the lower, the better.
- ◆ If you live in a home that is not owned by the congregation:

THEN this number should be on the HIGH end of reasonable.

The Fair Rental Value of a non-congregation-owned home is one of three amounts that determine the amount of income you can exclude from income tax. It should never be the smallest of these three amounts (the amount designated ahead of time as housing; the amount actually spent on housing; or the Fair Rental Value of the home).

PARSONAGES

- Rules for Clergy Living in Parsonages:
 - The Fair Rental Value (FRV) of a Parsonage (including utilities) is automatically excluded from income before federal income tax is calculated.
 - The FRV of a Parsonage (including utilities) is automatically included in income before self-employment tax is calculated.

PARSONAGES

- Rules for Clergy Living in Parsonages:
 - The FRV must be reasonable for its location, but it benefits the Minister employee if it is on the low end of the range of rentals in the area.
 - Ministers should still designate an additional housing exclusion to cover household items beyond the building &/or utilities (see list). This additional housing exclusion is subject to the Housing Exclusion Rules (next).

HOUSING EXCLUSION RULES

- Housing Exclusion Rules:
 - The amount officially designated as housing exclusion must be specified in writing, in an official document of the employer, before any housing exclusion payment is made.
 - The amount must be used to provide or rent the home (IRC: "provide a dwelling").
 - The amount cannot be more than reasonable pay for the Minister's services.

HOUSING EXCLUSION RULES

- The amount that can be excluded from income before federal income tax is calculated is the SMALLEST of the following 3 amounts:
 - Amount officially designated in writing as the housing exclusion
 - Amount actually spent to provide the home
 - Fair Rental Value (FRV) of the home, including utilities, furnishings, etc. – basically, everything in the home except food & clothing!

FAIR RENTAL VALUE

- For purposes of calculating the excludable housing amount, calculating the FRV of the home you rent or own is very different than calculating the FRV of a Parsonage.
- The FRV of a Parsonage is calculated based on an empty building, yard, garage, & any utilities paid by the congregation on the Minister's behalf.
- A realtor can give a good range of rental values for the area.

FAIR RENTAL VALUE

- The FRV of a Home you own or rent is calculated based on the home, yard, garage, & utilities – but with everything still in it (except food & clothing)!
- Look around your house & really see all the stuff you own. What would it cost to replace it all? There is no way to calculate this FRV amount.
- Since underestimating the FRV of your home can cost you significant tax savings, here's my rule:
Never allow the FRV of your home to be the smallest of those 3 amounts!

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EXCLUDING FROM INCOME

- If the amount that was officially designated in writing as the housing exclusion is the smallest of those 3 amounts:
 - Amount officially designated
 - Amount actually spent
 - FRV of the home (never the smallest number!)
- Then that amount can be excluded from income before federal income tax can be calculated.

EXCLUDING FROM INCOME

- If the amount that was officially designated in writing as the housing exclusion is not the smallest of these 3 amounts,
- Then:
 - the excess of the designated housing exclusion
 - over the smallest of these 3 amounts (it better not be the FRV of the home!)
 - must be added back into income before federal income tax is calculated.

EXCLUDING FROM INCOME

- Ideally, the officially designated housing exclusion should always be higher than the Minister employee's actual expenses.
- This way the Minister can take advantage of any unexpected expenses (e.g., repairs, furniture, disasters) to further reduce his/her income before federal income tax is calculated.
- If designated correctly, the Minister will have a small amount of excess housing exclusion added back into wages each year.

EXCLUDING FROM INCOME

- Example:
 - \$10,000 Designated housing exclusion
 - \$ 9,000 Amount actually spent on housing
 - \$12,000 FRV of the home, including furnishings & utilities

EXCLUDING FROM INCOME

- Example:
 - \$10,000 Designated housing exclusion
 - \$ 9,000 Amount actually spent on housing
 - \$12,000 FRV of the home
- The smallest amount is not the designated housing exclusion, so the difference between the designated housing exclusion & the smallest amount (\$10,000 - \$9,000 = \$1,000) is added back into income as wages

OFFICE IN HOME

- Rules for Claiming an Office in Home Deduction:
 - Area must be used exclusively & regularly for business.
 - Employees can only claim a home office deduction if the home office is for the convenience of your employer – not just because you bring work home &/or would rather work from home. (Eliminated by TCJA.)
 - Only available for Schedule C filers.

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OFFICE IN HOME

- When all housing expenses have been excluded from income by the use of a housing exclusion:
 - No office in home deduction is permitted.
 - Even if it's required by the Minister's employer.
 - Even if it's for a different non-Ministry business.
 - Even if it's for the Minister's spouse's business.
 - Really!

OFFICE IN HOME

- When all housing expenses have not been excluded by the use of a housing exclusion:
 - Unused housing exclusion expenses can be used on Schedule C (Form 8829) for honoraria.
 - Keep very thorough records showing which expenses were used for which purpose!
 - Reduce Mortgage Interest & Real Estate Taxes taken on Schedule A by the amounts permitted on Form 8829.

retired clergy

retired clergy: NO TAX?!

- Retired Ministers do not pay self-employment tax on pension payments or retirement allowances received for past Ministry services.
- Retired Ministers do not pay federal income tax on the FRV of a provided Parsonage.
- Retired Ministers do not pay federal income tax on pension payments which have been officially designated as housing exclusion, provided they are properly excluded from income.



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retired clergy

- Use of a housing exclusion can potentially reduce the income taxes owed by retired Ministers on pension payments to ZERO.
 - If a housing exclusion has not already been designated by a qualified 403(b) retirement plan,
 - Retired Ministers can ask the congregation which holds their membership & to whom they are accountable to designate a housing exclusion amount in writing.

retired clergy

- Retired Ministers who have owned their homes for a long time may have paid off their mortgage (one of the largest housing expenses), leaving them with fewer expenses to claim.
- Housing exclusion exclusions are limited by the smallest of the (1) amount officially designated; (2) amount actually spent; or (3) FRV of home.
- Designate wisely! Designate a little more than expected expenses to allow for the unforeseen.

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Tax Table: retired clergy

> Taxes > v Income v	Subject to Income Tax?	Subject to Self-Employ- ment Tax?	Subject to FICA Taxes?
Self-Employment Income (Honoraria)	Yes	Yes	No
Employee Salary	N/A	N/A	No
Housing Exclusion FRV of Parsonage	Maybe No	No	No

REDUCING TOTAL TAX: 3. BUSINESS EXPENSES

CLERGY BUSINESS EXPENSES

- Business Mileage
- Books ! & Subscriptions
- Computer & Internet
- Religious Material; Anointing Oil
- Education (Seminars & Conferences)
- Robes, Vestments, Collars, etc. (& dry cleaning)
- Office Supplies
- Portion of Cell Phone Bill Used for Ministry (LOG!)

BUSINESS EXPENSES

- In IRS Publication 463, "Travel, Entertainment, Gift, and Car Expenses", IRS defines business expenses as "ordinary & necessary business-related expenses."
- An ordinary expense is one that is common & accepted in your trade or business.
- A necessary expense is one that is helpful & appropriate for your business. An expense doesn't have to be required to be considered necessary.

CLERGY BUSINESS EXPENSES

- Expenses are attributed to 1 of the 3 types of Ministry income (& reported on the tax return on the following forms):
 - Salary-related expenses . . .
Clergy Worksheet 3, Line 6
 - Housing Exclusion-related expenses . . .
Clergy Worksheet 1; Schedule A
 - Self-Employment-related expenses . . .
Schedule C

CLERGY BUSINESS EXPENSES

- Shared expenses are expenses that are associated with more than one type of Ministry income (e.g., library, robes & vestments, etc.)
- Shared expenses are prorated according to the proportion of total Ministry income represented by the W-2 & Schedule C, respectively:

$$\frac{\text{Income Subject To Income Tax}}{\text{Total Ministry Income}}$$

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Worksheets

These worksheets are provided to help you figure your taxable ministerial income, your allowable deductions, and your net self-employment income.

Worksheet 1. Figuring the Percentage of Tax-Free Income

Note. For each line, enter the appropriate amount in **all** boxes that aren't shaded.

	Source of Income		(a) Taxable	(b) Tax-free	(c) Total
1	W-2 salary as a minister (from box 1 of Form W-2)	1			
2	Gross income from weddings, baptisms, writing, lecturing, etc. (from line 1 of Schedule C)	2			
Note. Complete either lines 3a through 3e or lines 4a through 4i. • If your church provides you with a parsonage, complete lines 3a through 3e. • If, instead of providing a parsonage, your church provides you with a rental or parsonage allowance, complete lines 4a through 4i.					
3a	FRV* of parsonage provided by church	3a			
b	Utility allowance, if any	3b			
c	Actual expenses for utilities	3c			
d	Enter the smaller of line 3b or 3c	3d			
e	Excess utility allowance (subtract line 3d from line 3b)	3e			
4a	Parsonage or rental allowance	4a			
b	Utility allowance, if separate	4b			
c	Total allowance (add lines 4a and 4b)	4c			
d	Actual expenses for parsonage	4d			
e	Actual expenses for utilities	4e			
f	Total actual expenses for parsonage and utilities (add lines 4d and 4e)	4f			
g	FRV* of home, plus the cost of utilities	4g			
h	Enter the smaller of line 4c, 4f, or 4g	4h			
i	Excess allowance (subtract line 4h from line 4c)	4i			
5	Ministerial income (for columns (a), (b), and (c), add lines 1 through 4i)	5			
6	Percentage of tax-free income: $\frac{\text{Total tax-free income (line 5(b)) \$}}{\text{Total income (line 5(c)) \$}}$			=	%**
* FRV (Fair Rental Value): As determined objectively and between unrelated parties, what it would cost to rent a comparable home (including furnishings) in a similar location. ** This percentage of your ministerial expenses won't be deductible. Use Worksheets 2 and 3 to figure your allowable deductions.					

IRS Worksheet 2. Figuring the Allowable Deduction for Schedule C Expenses

1	Percentage of expenses that are nondeductible (from Worksheet 1, line 6): _____ %		
2	Business use of car for entire year: _____ miles x 57.5 cents (\$0.575)	2	
3	Meals: \$ _____ x 50% (0.50)	3	
4	Other expenses (list item and amount)		
a		4a	
b		4b	
c		4c	
d		4d	
e		4e	
f	Total other expenses (add lines 4a through 4e)	4f	
5	Total Schedule C expenses (add lines 2, 3, and 4f)	5	
6	Nondeductible part of Schedule C expenses (multiply line 5 by the percent in line 1)	6	
7	Deduction allowed. * Subtract line 6 from line 5. Enter the result here and on Schedule C, line 27a.	7	
* None of the other deductions claimed in this return are allocable to tax-free income.			

Deb's Missing Worksheet. Figuring the Allowable Deduction for Unreimbursed Business Expenses

1	(Not used.) _____		
2	Business use of car for entire year: _____ miles x 57.5 cents (\$0.575)	2	
3	Meals: \$ _____ x 50% (0.50)	3	
4	Other expenses (list item and amount)		
a		4a	
b		4b	
c		4c	
d		4d	
e		4e	
f	Total other expenses (add lines 4a through 4e)	4f	
5	Total Unreimbursed Business Expenses (add lines 2, 3, and 4f)	5	
6	Enter the amount from Worksheet 2, line 6	6	
7	Deduction allowed. * Add line 5 to line 6. Enter the result here and on Worksheet 3, line 6.	7	
* None of the other deductions claimed in this return are allocable to tax-free income.			

IRS Worksheet 3. Figuring Net Self-Employment Income for Schedule SE (Form 1040 or 1040-SR)

1	W-2 salary as a minister (from box 1 of Form W-2)	1	
2	Net profit from Schedule C, line 31	2	
3a	Parsonage or rental allowance (from Worksheet 1, line 3a or 4a)	3a	
b	Utility allowance (from Worksheet 1, line 3b or 4b)	3b	
c	Total allowance (add lines 3a and 3b)	3c	
4	Add lines 1, 2, and 3c	4	
5	Schedule C expenses allocable to tax-free income (from Worksheet 2, line 6)	5	
6	Total business expenses not deducted in lines 1 and 2 above (amount from line 5)	6	
7	Net self-employment income. Subtract line 6 from line 4. Enter here and on Schedule SE (Form 1040 or 1040-SR), Section A, line 2; or Section B, line 2.	7	

CLERGY BUSINESS EXPENSES

- How Clergy expenses are deducted from income:
 - For Self-Employment Tax: Because all Ministry income is subject to self-employment tax, deduct all expenses.
 - For Federal Income Tax: Because not all Ministry income is subject to federal income tax, deduct only the portion of expenses that are attributable to taxable income (per Deason Rule).

CLERGY BUSINESS EXPENSES

- Reduce all expenses by the proportion (percent) of non-taxable housing exclusion to total Ministry income, as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Non-Taxable Housing exclusion}}{\text{Total Ministry Income}}$$

Use the Clergy Worksheets
at the end of IRS Publication 517
to calculate these amounts!

IRS CLERGY WORKSHEETS

- Worksheet 1. Figuring the Percentage of Tax-Free Income
- Worksheet 2. Figuring the Allowable Deduction for Schedule C or C-EZ Expenses
- Worksheet 3. Figuring Net Self-Employment Income for Schedule SE (Form 1040)

CLERGY DEDUCTION

- The "Tax Cuts & Jobs Act" eliminated deductions for unreimbursed employee business expenses from federal income for all employees.
- However, Ministers can deduct their unreimbursed employee business expenses against their Federal Self-Employment Income, using the Clergy Worksheets at the end of IRS Publication 517: Worksheet 3, Line 6, "Total business expenses not deducted above."

REIMBURSEMENT PLANS

- Due to the changes to unreimbursed employee business expenses, employers should immediately set up a method by which "ordinary & necessary" expenses incurred by employees for the benefit of the employer are reimbursed to the employee.
- It's not an enormous amount to the employer, but it's certainly helpful to the employee!

REIMBURSEMENT PLANS

- There are many ways employers can reimburse employees for these expenses. They tend to end up in two categories with vastly different tax consequences for the Employees:
 - Non-Accountable (**bad**) Reimbursement Plans
 - Accountable (**good**) Reimbursement Plans

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NON-ACCOUNTABLE PLANS

- Employers prepare budgets which often include their employees' anticipated expenses. Budgets are an essential financial management tool.
- "Allowances" (e.g., car allowance, education allowance, travel allowance, etc.) are based on the employer's budget for these expenses.
- Once the expenses are budgeted for, it seems simple enough just to pay it to the employee as part of their regular paycheck.

NON-ACCOUNTABLE PLANS

- Allowances are "Non-Accountable Plans." Here are some of their characteristics:
 - Employee is not required to give the employer receipts or other documentation
 - Employee is not required to return any amount of an advance not used for business expenses
 - Employer pays the employee regardless of whether the employer reasonably expects the employee to have business expenses.

NON-ACCOUNTABLE PLANS

- Payments from an Non-Accountable Plan are income to the employee.
- These payments are wages & are subject to withholding & payment of Income, Social Security, Medicare, & Unemployment Taxes.
- Non-Accountable Plans hit Ministers especially hard!
- When Allowances show up on the Minister's W-2 in Box 1 as salary, that income becomes subject to both federal income tax & self-employment tax.

ACCOUNTABLE PLANS

- "Accountable Plans" are easy to set up. Here are the requirements:
 - Employee must have paid or incurred deductible expenses while performing services as an employee. The reimbursement or advance must be paid for that expense.
 - Employee must substantiate the expense (provide a receipt) to the employer within a reasonable period of time.

ACCOUNTABLE PLANS

- Employee must return any amounts in excess of substantiated expenses within a reasonable period of time.
- Payments from an Accountable Plan are not income to the employee.
- Which means these payments are not wages & are not subject to withholding & payment of income, social security, medicare, & unemployment taxes.
- And they are not taxable income to Ministers!

ACCOUNTABLE PLANS

- However, be careful:
 - If, at the end of the year, there is still money left in the budget in any of these expense categories, & the employer decides to give the balance to the employee without documented expenses . . .

The entire plan for the entire year becomes a Non-Accountable Plan, turning all Accountable Plan reimbursements for the entire year into taxable wages for every employee.

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REDUCING TOTAL TAX: 4. HEALTH INSURANCE

affordable care act

- Before the ACA, "Applicable Small Employers" (fewer than 50 FTE [Full Time Equivalent] employees) used medical insurance premium reimbursements to help their employees afford medical insurance.
- However, the 2010 Affordable Care Act changed that practice. Many congregations could no longer provide a pre-tax health insurance reimbursement to their employees.

affordable care act

- Small employers & congregations can, however, continue to give financial support for medical insurance premium costs.
- There are rules:
 - Employer cannot specify the purpose for this increase in pay – not in congregational minutes or as a budget line item.
 - This financial support becomes compensation (wages) to the employee.

affordable care act

- Tax effects for Minister employees if added to salary (W-2 Box 1):
 - Increases income & self-employment taxes.
 - Employees can try to deduct the amount paid for health insurance premiums on Schedule A as a medical deduction, but this deduction is subject to a 10% of AGI (adjusted gross income) threshold. This high threshold makes it unlikely to actually reduce federal income tax liability.

affordable care act

- Tax effects for Ministers if added to housing exclusion (W-2 Box 14):
 - Increases self-employment taxes.
 - However, housing expenses have the potential to reduce or completely remove the additional income from federal income tax.

affordable care act

- Regardless of how the additional income is reported, small employers & congregations will see an increase in the amounts they pay for the Minister's pension contributions & non-Ministers employee payroll taxes.

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aca exceptions

- There are two exceptions to the prohibition against Medical Insurance Premium Reimbursement under the ACA (after June 30, 2015, & without the excise tax penalty of \$100 per day per employee):
 - If the congregation has only one employee ("fewer than two employees") in the plan.
 - If the congregation has only retirees in the plan.

aca exceptions

- One-Employee Plans:
 - The IRS has not specified whether the congregation can have more than one employee working more than 25 hours per week & yet allow only one employee to be in the congregation's medical reimbursement plan.
 - Safest way forward: Assume that having more than one employee working more than 25 hours per week means that the congregation is not permitted to use a medical reimbursement plan.

aca exceptions

- One-Employee Plans (continued):
 - Do not attempt to get around this limitation by reclassifying employees (who receive W-2s) as independent contractors (who receive 1099s)!
 - The IRS has a 20-factor test that focuses on financial control, behavioral control, & the relationship between the employer & the worker to determine proper classification.

aca exceptions

- Retirees-Only Plans:
 - The IRS has not specified whether the congregation can meet both the one-employee & the retirees-only exceptions at the same time.
 - Safest way forward: Assume that having a one-employee plan means the congregation cannot also have a retirees-only plan, & vice versa.

QSEHRA

- In December 2016, The 21st Century Cures Act became law.
- This law created the QSEHRA (Qualified Small Employer Health Reimbursement Arrangement).
- A QSEHRA allows certain small employers to give their employees pre-tax dollars to pay for premiums & other medical expenses, so long as the QSEHRA meets certain standards.

QSEHRA

- Small employers can offer HRAs on a stand-alone basis to employees, & employees may use funds in qualifying HRAs to buy individual health insurance.
- Maximum annual employer contribution (must be prorated per month of coverage):
 - \$5,150 per year (in 2019) for an HRA covering only the employee
 - \$10,450 (in 2019) for an HRA covering the employee & his/her family

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QSEHRA

- Employees cannot contribute to the HRA.
- Employer must provide payment or reimbursement for medical expenses, which can include copays & premiums for individual health insurance, Medicare Supplemental insurance, & Medicare Parts A, B, C, & D.
- Employees must provide documentation in the form of receipts for medical expenses or health insurance premiums paid.

QSEHRA

- Pre-tax reimbursements from a QSEHRA cannot exceed \$5,150 per year (in 2019) for single coverage or \$10,450 a year (in 2019) for family coverage.
- Amounts above this limit become taxable income to the employee.
- Setting up a QSEHRA requires specific plan documents addressing particular requirements of the plan. A professional benefits advisor should be consulted when setting up a QSEHRA.

ICHRA

- Beginning in January 2020, the Individual Coverage HRA became available to employers.
- Employers who do not offer a health insurance plan to their employees can contribute pre-tax dollars to an ICHRA to cover health insurance premiums & qualified medical expenses for their employees.
- Larger amounts are available for older employees & employees with larger families; cannot exceed 3 times the amount available for other employees.

EBHRA

- Beginning in January 2020, the Excepted Benefit HRA became available to employers.
- Employers must provide health insurance to employees; however, employees are not required to use their employer-provided insurance to use the EBHRA.
- The EBHRA covers all medical, dental, or vision costs up to \$1,800 (in 2020) annually per employee.

SECTION 105 PLANS

- These plans require plan documents & administration.
- Two companies well-known for working with small businesses & congregations are:
 - TASC - Total Administrative Services Corporation (www.tasconline.com)
 - Zane Benefits (www.zane.peoplekeep.com)

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY PENALTY

- The Tax Cuts & Jobs Act, signed into law December 2017, removed the ACA's Individual Responsibility Penalty as of January 1, 2019.
- That's the extra amount taxpayers without qualifying health insurance pay on their tax return at the end of the year.
- Beginning in 2019, taxpayers are no longer required to have any health insurance coverage, & no penalty will be assessed on their tax return.

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CORONAVIRUS 2020: ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

- The first round of Economic Impact Payments (\$1,200 per adult + \$600 per child) that were paid out in 2020 need to be reported on your 2020 tax returns.
- The second round of Economic Impact Payments (\$600 per adult + \$600 per child) that were paid out in January 2021 also need to be reported on your 2020 tax returns.

ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

- THIS IS IMPORTANT! Go to: www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment to get a record of your payments.
- If you didn't get the full Economic Impact Payments you were entitled to, you may receive a refundable credit on your 2020 tax return called the Recovery Rebate Credit.
- If you received more than you were entitled to, you don't have to pay it back!

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

- Hammar, Richard R. (updated yearly). Church & Clergy Tax Guide. Carol Stream IL: Christianity Today. www.ChurchLawAndTaxStore.com
- Vargo, Richard J., & Vonna Laue. 2009. Essential Guide to Church Finances. Carol Stream IL: Christianity Today International. www.YourChurchResources.com
- Worth, B.J. (updated yearly). Worth's Income Tax Guide for Ministers. Winona Lake IN: Worth Financial Service. www.WorthFinancial.com

PUBLICATIONS

- Pub 517, Social Security & Other Information For Members Of The Clergy & Religious Workers
- Pub 15-A, Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide, Ch. 4, "Religious Exemptions & Special Rules For Ministers"
- Pub 1828, Tax Guide For Churches & Religious Organizations

All pubs & forms can be found at www.irs.gov

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PUBLICATIONS

- Pub 15 (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide
- Pub 463, Travel, Entertainment, Gift, & Car Expenses
- Pub 526, Charitable Contributions
- Pub 535, Business Expenses
- Pub 15-B, Employer's Tax Guide To Fringe Benefits

All pubs & forms can be found at www.irs.gov

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QUESTIONS?

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