

COMMITTEE ON PARISH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
Central Pennsylvania Conference
Benevolent Grants

There are five areas of grants available through the Committee on Parish and Community Development (P&CD or the Committee). Below is a description of each, as well as general guidelines for writing and preparing grants, with relevant information related to those grants that are approved.

MULTI-CULTURAL/URBAN – These are given to ministry projects that exhibit a target group that is characterized by their urban setting and/or a multi-cultural setting. Their purposes range from congregationally centered programs as well as programs in the communities.

NEW CHURCH SALARY – These grants are directed towards those congregations who are working in new church or satellite church settings, primarily as start up funding for a set time frame.

NEW CHURCH PROPERTY – These are for the physical property of either church building or pastoral housing.

PARISH DEVELOPMENT – Parish development grants are for those ministries within the bounds of the local congregation.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES – These are justice work programs that may be held within the local church, but whose target group is outside the bounds of the local congregation. They tend to focus on the community.

Grants applications are accepted throughout the year, with a majority received and reviewed in the Fall. For those grants needing consideration for the sake of budgeting for the following year, applications will be due roughly in mid-October, on a date set each year and published through various means prior to the Fall.

Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the basic guidelines of the program as well as specific guidelines for each grant area. Applicants are also encouraged to specify only one grant area. If multiple grants areas are indicated on the application, the Committee will designate one, which could effect funding.

In preparing grant applications, please be as thorough as possible and assume no one on the committee has ever heard of the ministry, congregation or community. In giving history and scope of the project, be as clear as possible. At the same time, please do not give information that is not necessary, as too much information can cloud the process.

Each applicant project will receive a visit from a member of P&CD. For those projects who have been supported, and are re-applying, you will need to show evidence that:

- 1) the program that was funded is progressing as it was described in the grant
- 2) the money has been spent in the budget categories for which it was requested
- 3) there is progress toward sustainability when grant funding is no longer available.
- 4) this program has impacted the community; and
- 5) the total number of people being served

For those project applying for the first time, be prepared to share with the Committee member information that help familiarize them with the project so they can present your application with the Committee.

When grants are received, payments are based in the Shares of Ministry received in the conference. Hence, checks will be issued on a quarterly basis, roughly in the middle of the quarter. With this in mind, please communicate if the needs of your ministry if you feel as though they differ from this process.

The Chair of Parish Development or any member of the Committee on Parish and Community Development are available to respond to questions regarding these criteria. In your planning and application process, consider using the resources that are available including the Congregational Vitalization Consultant.

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF MULTI-CULTURAL URBAN FUNDS

Multi-Cultural/Urban funds are intended for those congregations and ministries that serve in an urban or culturally diverse setting. The intention is to concentrate these funds on those ministries whose *primary focus* is ethnically and culturally diverse groups and those in urban ministry settings.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. *Purpose:* What are the specific goals and purposes of this ministry? Is the primary purpose of this ministry an ethnic or culturally diverse group of people? Is this in an urban setting?
2. *Focus:* Who is the targeted ministry group? Is this group growing or declining? What indigenous leadership is being used/fostered in the ministry setting?
3. *Financial:* What other areas of funding have been identified? Is the ministry able to support itself financially? Is there an active process in effect to work towards self-support? Have other funding sources have been sought?
4. *Evaluation:* Where is general accountability included in the ministry plan? Is there outside guidance/coaching available? How is it utilized?

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF NEW CHURCH SALARIES FUNDS

New Church Salary Funds are available for salaries of pastors/leadership in new church settings. It is highly encouraged that these congregations work with the Conference Congregational vitalization team in identifying goals/expectations for the pastor/leadership.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. *Purpose:* What are the goals/visions of this ministry? What population will this NCS reach? What are the benchmarks that will be targeted? What missional strategies are being utilized? What type of church start is this? Is there a trained coach assigned to work with this plant? What training has the pastor and launch team received? Are there other organizations involved...community, other churches, etc.?
2. *Focus:* What is the specific area being reached by this ministry? How was this area identified as a target area? Is there any other ministry/group focusing on this area? Is there a specific 'niche' that this ministry reaches? Is there a prayer team in place to undergird this?

3. *Financial:* What is the long-term financial goals of this ministry? What is your three year budget and how much of that they are requesting from P&CD? What other funding sources have been identified? Is there evidence that the ministry will become self-sustaining?
4. *Evaluation:* What accountability is in place for the pastor? For the leadership? What goals have been identified as benchmarks for vitality?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. What training has the pastor and leadership received?
2. Is there on-going coaching/mentoring available to the pastor/leadership?
3. How has planting been set as part of the DNA of this new congregation? How is the congregation being prepared to make this church plant a success?

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF NEW CHURCH PROPERTY FUNDS

New Church Property funds are intended to help start-up churches provide adequate housing for the pastor, and necessary meeting space for the congregation. Projects are encouraged to facilitate the resources available through the conference to identify appropriate needs and available spaces that would fit the ministry.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. *Purpose:* Has the building/parsonage been approved by the district committee on church buildings and locations? If it is a parsonage, does it meet the conference standards for new parsonages? Is the parsonage within the geographical area served by the congregation? At this point in the life of the congregation, is this building necessary? Are there alternatives?
2. *Focus:* Is there evidence within the congregation that ministry and mission would be enhanced by a new building? Is the location of the building/lot geographically accessible to the target region of the new church? If this is a lease/rental, is it a practice of good stewardship?
3. *Financial:* Has there been a capital campaign in the congregation? What sources of income have been identified through the congregation? If this is a parsonage for a church start, will this building become a burden on the new church? Is there a cash-flow projection, and where does P&CD fit in that plan? If it is a lease/rental, how will it effect future building?
4. *Evaluation:* What is the time commitment being asked of the Committee? Will this building allow for long-term usage, or will it need to be replaced eventually? If rental/lease, does the site fulfill the needs of the group/congregation?

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Parish development grants are for those ministries within the bounds of the local congregation. Preference is given for those projects/grant requests that exhibit evidence of a vital congregation or work towards the re-vitalization of a congregation.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. *Purpose:* Does the project relate to the Objectives of Parish Development? (*See Parish Development Objectives, Conference Policy Manual Section M, Appendix I*) Is the project in keeping with the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church?

2. *Focus:* Does the project move the congregation forward? Who is the targeted population? Does the ministry internalize the efforts of the congregation, or does it promote connection with the local community?
3. *Financial:* What is the support of the local congregation? Volunteers? Materials? Financial?
4. *Evaluation:* What accountability procedures are in place to ensure grant funds are optimized? What evaluative procedures are in place for ongoing project determination?

SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR PARISH COMMUNITY GRANTS:

STAFF — One or more congregations seeking the expansion of staff to facilitate more effective ministry

UNITING OF CONGREGATIONS — Congregations desiring to unite with other United Methodist Congregations or congregations of other denominations to further enhance the witness of Christ so as to provide ministry to the community.

RELOCATION OF CONGREGATIONS — Congregations who desire to relocate due to proximity to another United Methodist Church, which closeness may hinder growth to both congregations; due to the deterioration or inadequacy of a building; due to population shifts or land restrictions.

COOPERATIVE AND/OR ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES — Two or more congregations, United Methodist and other denominations, or all United Methodist, developing a specific project or an on-going ecumenical or cooperative ministry.

URBAN — An urban congregation, alone or in cooperation with other congregations, which wishes to provide innovative ministry to the community or to develop new ministries within the congregation.

RURAL — One or more rural congregations responding to changing conditions of population, land use, economic development/decline, neighborhood changes, health service needs, duplication of ministry, or other factors which indicate a need for new forms of ministry.

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT - One or more United Methodist congregations who need to improve church(es), parsonage(s), or church owned/related community centers as a means toward more effective ministry.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING SOCIAL MINISTRIES PROJECTS

SOCIAL MINISTRY GRANTS are available as start-up (seed money) or long-term support of ministries of congregations or agencies that reach outside the local parish. Considerations are made based on the following criteria:

A. SEED MONEY PROJECTS

1. *Purpose:* Is there a clearly stated purpose? Are the needs served by other agencies? Is there duplication? Is the project short-term or long term? What are the expected results?
2. *Focus:* Is it church related? Is the project ecumenical? What is the target population?

3. *Funding*: Are there other sources of income? Can the project generate income?
4. *Evaluation*: Leadership qualifications? Does the design include self-evaluation?

B. LONG-TERM PROJECTS (on-going)

1. *Purpose*: Is there a clearly stated purpose? Does it provide a definite Christian witness?
2. *Focus*: Has the original target population remained the same? Does the target population continue to exhibit the need?
3. *Funding*: Is there evidence that a deliberate attempt has been made to seek other sources of funding? Is there demonstrated an inability to generate funding from other sources?
4. *Evaluation*: What evidence is there as to the results? Number of persons being served? Quantitative goal setting? Is there accountability? Is there local church support? Evaluation and review locally? Charge Conference oversight? Effort to involve congregational/cluster support?