

PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH

POLICIES FOR AWARDING REVITALIZATION GRANTS

The Ministry of Congregational Health (MCH) has been blessed with funding to help revitalize congregations in their service to the Lord and the community in which they are situated. This will be extremely helpful as the climate toward “church” continues to evolve and refocus. To aid congregations in their attempt to revitalize and refocus their ministry, funding through MCH may be available.

TYPES OF GRANTS AVAILABLE

There are three categories for which revitalization assistance may apply. *All grants, if approved by the Ministry of Congregational Health, are considered to be matching grants up to the amount specified in this policy. Grants may be applied for once every 18 months.*

- **Equipment (up to \$1,000)**

Given current, broadly available digital communication and learning tools, outdated equipment holds little appeal for communicating with the digitally-literate. If just cause can be presented demonstrating how updating equipment will play a key role in revitalizing and refocusing a congregation’s ministry, a request for equipment will be considered.

- **Emergency Repairs (up to \$5,000)**

There may be occasions when repairs to church facilities are needed in an attempt to be more visually appealing to potential newcomers to a congregation, as well as for the safety of all. A leaky roof leaving water stains, rotting wood that needs to be replaced and painted are just a couple examples.

- **Pastoral Leadership (up to ½ the Presbytery minimum compensation requirements)**

Congregations that have completed the Holy Cow! Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) and the MissionInsite demographic study, and have devised strategic plans showing viability for future ministry, may apply for a Pastoral Leadership Grant. This would be to help call a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pastor to serve the congregation for a minimum of three years. There will be a stringent review process prior to awarding this grant.

INITIAL CRITERIA

As Presbyterians, we are part of a connectional system. We work together and are a part of one another’s others’ lives. When a grant request is submitted, several initial criteria will weigh heavily on considering the request:

- Have members of the congregation been serving on committees of the Presbytery?
- Has the Session been faithful in sending commissioners to attend Presbytery meetings?

- Has the congregation been faithful in financially supporting the work and ministry of the Presbytery?
- A copy of the congregation's financial budget and holdings will be required.
- At least two (2) estimates will be required for the Emergency Repair Grant.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

There arise occasions when a congregation within the Presbytery of Florida has fulfilled its ministry to our Lord. The completion of that ministry is celebrated at a time of worship and thanksgiving for the work accomplished.

But the influence of that congregation, its assistance and aid to its sister congregations, is not completely over, even though its doors are closed.

As is the policy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbytery is responsible for the disposition of the church property (G-4.0205). The funds received from the sale of the property is used to give witness to the connectional nature of our denomination and further the work of our Lord in our sister congregations and the Presbytery of Florida.

In 2020, the Presbytery of Florida passed the following in order to spread the funds in such a way as to best serve the Presbytery:

“After the equivalent of one half of the current year’s budget is set aside, which can be used to zero-balance the current year’s budget before closing the books for that year,

- 10% of the remainder shall be set aside for special, unbudgeted presbytery projects defined by that policy,
- 50% shall be assigned to the Committee on Congregational Revitalization [now Ministry of Congregational Health] to be used as defined by their policy for such funds, and
- 40% shall be assigned to the Committee on New Congregational Development to be used as defined by their policy.
- Any growth in the Reserve Fund shall be distributed *pro rata*.”

Resources have been afforded the Ministry of Congregational Health through investments made possible from the sale of church properties whose congregations have concluded their ministries. With the approval from Presbytery, the maximum amount to be invested will be no more than \$650,000 the interest of which will be used to assist qualified projects and requests for assistance.

PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

MINISTRY FOR CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH

EQUIPMENT GRANT DEFINITIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Purpose

The Presbytery of Florida has established a Congregational Revitalization Fund to provide grants to its congregations with small membership in support of a congregation's specific plan for its revitalization. The awarding of grants will be based on a demonstrated need to update/upgrade equipment used in worship and/or educational opportunities that will lead toward renewed and refocused avenues for ministry.

Administration

The fund shall be administered, and grants awarded by, the Ministry of Congregational Health (MCH). *All grants, if approved by the Ministry of Congregational Health, are considered to be matching grants up to the amount specified in this policy. Grants may be applied for once every 18 months.*

Definitions

- ***Small Membership Congregations:*** While the definition of what constitutes a small congregation may vary, in the Presbytery of Florida, it is generally considered to refer to congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of fewer than 50 persons.
- ***Demonstrated Need:*** How the lack of the needed equipment, or out-dated equipment, has hindered forward progress of ministry
- ***Equipment:*** Those tangible items used to enhance the worship and educational experience, (e.g., audio-visual devices) of the congregation

Evaluation

Within the first six months of receiving the grant, an accounting of the equipment's use and effectiveness in helping revitalize the focus and practice of ministry will be submitted by the Session for review by MCH. Failure to do so will potentially disqualify a congregation from receiving future grants.

PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA
MINISTRY FOR
CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH

EQUIPMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Congregation Name: _____ PIN: _____

Address: _____

Session Clerk: _____ Session Moderator: _____

Contact Person for Grant: _____

Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Home/Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Congregation Membership: _____ Average Weekly Worship Attendance: _____

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1. For what item(s) are you seeking a grant? (Please be specific) _____

2. Amount requested from MCH? _____ (It is understood the congregation will match this amount.) Please attach the latest copy of the congregation's financial budget and holdings.

3. What will this item replace? _____

4. Where and how will this item be utilized? _____

How frequently? _____

5. What role will it play in revitalizing the life and ministry of the congregation? _____

6. What are the anticipated results to be achieved by using this item? _____

7. In the past three years, how have members of the congregation been involved with various aspects of the Presbytery? _____

The Session of _____ met on _____ and voted
(church) (date)
affirmatively on this matter, fully understanding the expectations of this request.

Signed:

Clerk of Session

Date