

## **The Congregational Development Fund Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area**

### **Description and Application Form**

#### **Fund Description**

The Congregational Development Fund has been established by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area to encourage or expand congregational ministry supporting innovative, and perhaps risky, ministry initiatives at the congregational level. The Presbytery anticipates that the use of these funds will result in revitalized congregations, new forms of ministry in our presbytery, growing and healthy partnerships, and most importantly, changed lives.

The PTCA's Committee on Congregational Vitality (CCV) will solicit and evaluate proposals and recommend recipients, with the Presbytery Leadership Team as the approving body. All grants will be reported to Presbytery at the meeting following their award, including a brief summary of the proposal and the grant amount. Actual proposals will be accepted beginning March 12, 2018. The deadline for applications is May 18, 2018. Grant funding will occur in late July/mid-August, 2018.

Successful applications will build on the current gifts, abilities, passions, and callings of congregations by enabling innovative new or expanded ministries. Up to \$100,000 in grants annually will be available from this fund.\* A ceiling of \$20,000 annually will ordinarily be applied to individual grants; however, grant proposals with multi-year horizons and funding needs may be considered. Funding preference will be given to proposals in which a clear commitment of a congregation's own human or financial resources is also present. Grants from this fund are not to be for annual budget support of a congregation. The funds may be used for capital improvements, if those improvements are clearly linked to an opportunity for new or revitalized ministry.

Completed applications may be submitted to the Presbytery by mail or electronically to the Committee on Congregational Vitality through Risa Anderson, PTCA office manager, at [office@ptcaweb.org](mailto:office@ptcaweb.org) by May 18. Please put Congregational Development Fund application in the subject line. Questions can be addressed to Michael Quady, Chair of CCV ([quady12@gmail.com](mailto:quady12@gmail.com)) or Jeff Japinga, Executive Presbyter ([ep@ptcaweb.org](mailto:ep@ptcaweb.org)).

*\*The fund was established from the sale of Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church. That Session requested that special consideration be given to the three congregations receiving most of Arlington Hills' former members— North Church, North St. Paul; Presbyterian Church of the Way, Shoreview; and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Woodbury. The presbytery honored that request stating that those three congregations' applications would receive priority for grant funds for a period of five years. This is the second year of the grant program.*

## **General Parameters for Decision-Making**

In evaluating applications, the Committee on Congregational Vitality and the Presbytery Leadership Team will consider the following qualities and criteria:

1. Does this proposal have the likelihood of leading to growth in involvement in ministry from amongst current and possibly future members?
2. Does this proposal reflect original and creative thinking for this particular congregation? Does it introduce a new idea or practice for this congregation? What 21<sup>st</sup> century ministry challenge does it address? Does it suggest the possibility of significant positive change?
  - a. Would the presbytery be proud of this proposal? Is the outcome one that other congregations in the presbytery might learn from?
  - b. Does this proposal help this particular congregation move in a future-oriented direction?
3. Has the congregation demonstrated a willingness to change and be changed by new ideas? Is the congregation prepared and equipped for change?
4. If this project is a success, can it become sustainably funded by the congregation in future years?
5. Does the congregation have the right leadership in place to carry out and honestly evaluate this proposal?
6. If the proposal has a multi-year horizon, is there sufficient oversight and reality-based awareness so that the project can be terminated or altered quickly to give the presbytery more opportunities for successful proposals?

**PTCA Congregational Development Grant  
Application Form  
Application Deadline: May 18, 2018**

**Brief Title of Project:**

**Describe the project you are proposing:** (Use the accompanying criteria as a guide. How is this idea new and fresh for your congregation? What will happen and who will be served? Try to keep this to 800 words or less.)

**What 21<sup>st</sup> century ministry challenge(s) is this project addressing? How will you measure the success of this ministry or project?**

**What impact you do anticipate on the ministry of your congregation and the community/ies in which you will carry out this work? What changes will you need to make to do this new project, and what changes will result from it? Who will supervise or oversee this project?**

**How can the presbytery learn from this project? What might it contribute to our common life or to the ministry of another congregation?**

**Funding:**

**What is the request: \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Is this application for one year only? If no, what is the funding horizon?**

**How will this proposed program intersect with your current operating budget?**

**How will the grant funds be spent? What is the budget for these funds?**

**The Session approved this application on \_\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Clerk of Session

Note: The Committee on Congregational Vitality requires a report six-months after the disbursement of funds updating the progress of the program and how funds have been spent to that point.