

Congregational Development Fund Enables New Ministry, Organizational Partnerships

*NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Presbytery, through its Committee on Congregational Vitality and the Presbytery Leadership Team, delayed the May 1 deadline for applications for the annual Congregational Development Fund grants, understanding the focus of our congregations was on more immediate challenges. These grants will still be available in 2020, however. **The new deadline is August 15, 2020.** Please read the information below to re-familiarize yourself with this annual grant program.*

Has your congregation been noticing a need in your community, kicking around a new ministry idea, or dreaming about partnering with a neighborhood organization—but a tight budget makes you set that vision aside? Perhaps the pandemic currently affecting us has shone a light on a new, long-term ministry opportunity in your area. If that's true, then consider applying for a Congregational Development Grant from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

Entering its fourth year of grants, the PTCA's Congregational Grant Fund (sometimes known as Bucket #1) has already given out nearly \$300,000 in grants funds to 21 PTCA congregations. This year, proceeds from this endowment fund will allow for up to \$100,000 in grants for ministry initiatives at the congregational level. Applications are now due August 15, 2020, with awards to be announced in late October.

Successful applications will build on the current gifts, abilities, passions and callings of congregations by enabling innovative new or expanded ministries. Individual grants will be awarded for up to \$20,000 each. Last year's grant award winners included plans to implement a permaculture design on the grounds of Church of All Nations, converting it into an ecological sanctuary... adding a youth music ministry program for Anuak refugees through the Foundation of Life New Worshipping Community... sanctuary technology improvements at New Life Presbyterian Church to enable new worship and education offering. (And that was before the pandemic and the emergency grants for technology!) In previous years, Congregational Development grants have funded new community service projects, partnerships with neighborhood non-profits, congregational revitalization initiatives, and building alterations needed to allow a bold new ministry partnership to begin.

To download the application, click [HERE](#):

http://ptcaweb.org/images/CDF_2020_GRANT_APP.pdf

The Committee on Congregational Vitality will again oversee the grant process. Questions can be addressed to one of the grant review team co-chairs, Rev. Karen Larson (larsonkarenrose@gmail.com) or Rev. Scott Larson (scott@salmail.net), or to Executive Presbyter Jeff Japinga (ep@ptcaweb.org).

This year, given all that has transpired, may not be the right time to move forward with a bold new initiative. Or it may be exactly the right time. Either way, the Congregational Development

Fund will be here this year, and in the future, for this purpose.