

MISSIONAL GRANTS

Funding innovative and impactful
ministry across the Upstate New York
District Church of the Nazarene



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WHY GRANTS?

The Upstate New York District wants to be faithful stewards of the resources God has provided to us (Matthew 25:14-30). As we have considered how to do this, the District Advisory Board has created a system to disperse these funds to our churches. This program will help strengthen our witness across the district as we serve our communities and congregations in the name of Jesus.

Two kinds of grants will be considered. First, those that help to strengthen the discipleship ministries of the church. These grants will not be solely internally focused but will include outreach and evangelism. Our core values as a denomination are Christian, Holiness, and Missional. We are looking for projects that develop these values in practical ways in our churches.

Second, we are looking for ministries that help us reach our communities' marginalized populations--the poor, disenfranchised, and oppressed. Phineas F. Bresee, founder of the Church of the Nazarene wrote, "The first miracle after the baptism of the Holy Ghost was wrought upon a beggar. It means that the first service of the Holy Ghost baptized church is to the poor; that its ministry is to those who are lowest down; that its gifts are for those that need them most. As the Spirit was upon Jesus to preach the Gospel to the poor, so His Spirit is upon His servants for the same purpose."

Missional grants will help the local church to grow in its love and service to and for God and neighbor.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any board on the Upstate New York District with the approval of the pastor can bring forth a proposal.

PROCESS

- This packet provides you with everything you need to successfully apply for a grant. Application is not a guarantee of approval, and plans should not be made in the hopes that money will be disbursed.
- Prayerfully determine the need you want to meet. Ask: What are the needs in our community? What resources do we already have to meet those needs? What would help us to fully address the need? Talk to the people on your board and in your church to hone your ideas. Take a look at the rubric page to help guide you. There are also some ideas on the FAQ page as you are planning and considering what you might sense the Lord is calling you to.
- Fill out the application in full and submit it to the district office. Be mindful of the Rubric page. The process will go more smoothly if you pay close attention to how you will be evaluated. Due May 5, 2026.
- Prepare a presentation for a project proposal. This should include information from your application, imagery, data, and a compelling story that helps the Missional Grant Team (MGT) understand your vision. Bring a team of people from the church to help in the process. Within two weeks of the presentation day, applicants will be notified of the determination. If all monies are not dispersed after this date, we will consider receiving other applications throughout the year.
- Money will be disbursed to applicants who have received a grant based on the project plan and MGT directives.
- Those awarded grants will make reports to the DAB every six months for accountability.
- If you are denied a grant, you can apply the next fiscal year.
- If you are awarded a grant, you should not apply for another grant until the payment cycle of the current grant is completed (typically every two years).

Criteria	1 Point Needs Improvement	2 Points Average	3 Points Very Good	4 Points Exceptional	Score
SECTION A: Project/Program Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Description of project is vague or unclear -The goals of the program are not addressed or clearly stated -The goals do not align with the need stated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Description of the project is somewhat clear and includes details -The goals of the project are addressed but not clearly stated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Description of project is very clear with details -The goals are clearly stated -Outcomes of moderate impact and value are described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Description of the project is exceptionally clear and provides detailed information -Goals are clearly stated -Significant outcomes are described 	
SECTION B: Demonstration of need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Description of need is hard to understand or verbose -It is not clear what the specific need is and there is insufficient information included to support funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Description depicting the need is somewhat clear and minimally explains why funding is needed -There is some information to support the need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Description depicts the need for the project well and the language describes clearly -Data or additional information supports the narrative and shows a clear need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Description is very clear, concise, and easy to understand -Information and data are included that clearly support the need 	
SECTION C: Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Little to no outcomes are described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Goals and desired outcomes are minimally described and are somewhat aligned with the need described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Outcomes of moderate impact and value are described -There lacks some specificity in what is measurable in outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Significant outcomes are described -All goals and outcomes are measurable both qualitatively and quantitatively 	
SECTION D: Implementation/ Timeline/ Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Timeframe for completion of the work as described does not appear feasible -Limited to no information included with a timeline or calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Describes a feasible timeframe for achieving goals -A basic calendar was included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Describes a feasible timeframe for achieving goals -A calendar was included, and it was clear and concise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Describes an excellent timeframe for achieving goals -A comprehensive calendar was included 	
SECTION E: Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Weak or no sustainability created to ensure a continuation of the work beyond life of the grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Somewhat of a sustainability plan created to ensure a continuation of the work beyond life of the grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A significant sustainability plan was created to ensure a continuation of the work beyond life of the grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A comprehensive and clear sustainability plan is identified to ensure a continuation of the work beyond life of the grant 	
SECTION F: Budget/ Monitoring/ Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very limited or no plan to ensure a clear focus on goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Somewhat of a plan to ensure a clear focus on goals and that the action plan is executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A significant plan is created to ensure a clear focus on goals and that the action plan is executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Exceptionally designed monitoring plan to ensure a clear focus on goals that assure the action plan is executed 	

FAQ

- **What is a grant?** It is a gift of financial support that comes with accountability. We want your church and ministry to impact lives for the Kingdom of God. We know not every church has the financial resources it needs to accomplish all the dreams God has brought to you. This partnership will help us invest in what God is calling you to do and help you to do it well. This money does not need to be paid back, but the conditions of the grant need to be met for the funding to continue.
- **What is a Rubric?** It is a tool for you to use as you are creating an exceptional grant proposal. It is also what the MGT will utilize in evaluating each grant proposal we receive. This helps to create a spirit of fairness and consistency in the process of awarding. It may look daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Work square by square and you will be well on your way. If you need help, please contact the district office and a mentor will be assigned to you.
- **I've never done this before!** How does this work? Look over the application, study the Rubric, and check out these resources to get started on setting goals, writing a proposal, and putting together a compelling project.
 - [Setting SMART Goals](#)
 - [How to write a grant proposal](#)
 - [Community Demographics to learn about your community](#)
 - [Determining your "Why?"](#)
- **If you still need help,** we have a limited number of people who can help you as a Missional Grant Mentor. This person will be assigned after you have demonstrated a need and per their availability.
- **How long will this take?** We cannot predict how long the application process will take you. Take your time and fill it out as completely as possible. Once it is submitted if more information is needed you will hear from someone on the MGT. After the project day, you will know within 2 weeks what the decision is.
- **Who approves the grant?** The Missional Grant Team will make the recommendation to the District Advisory Board and DS.
- **What kind of projects are you looking for?** Please prayerfully consider what the Lord is leading you to. Some examples are: care for the homeless, programs for children, food ministry, elder care, work with immigration, prison ministry, sports ministry, English as a Second Language, etc.

PROPOSAL DAY

The proposal day will be determined after all applications are received. The following is expected and offered:

- We ask that you come for the entire time and support all of those applying for a grant by watching their presentations.
- If we are in person, we will plan to have audio-visual equipment available for you to use. You will receive a form to fill out with the needs you have as we get closer to the proposal day.
- If we are meeting via Zoom, you can plan to share your screen to show videos or presentations.
- Have a team help with the proposal presentation. We want to see multiple people from the church helping to shape this vision, share it with the MGT, and implement it if it is funded. This is a great opportunity to develop leaders and work together.
- Each team will have 20 minutes to present and the MGT will have 10-15 minutes to ask questions.

Invite people from your congregation to come and support your team while you present!

Check out these useful tools as you create your presentation:

[Grant Proposal Example](#)

[100+ Creative Ideas to Engage Your Audience](#)

[Presenting to Grant Makers](#)



MISSIONAL FUND GRANT APPLICATION

The Upstate NY District provides grants to district churches and church planters who are desiring to start new ministries or revitalize and enhance effective ministries that may be in danger of elimination.

- Funding for these grants fluctuates from year to year based on available resources.
- All grants will have an established end date. This will be determined by the Missional Grant Team (MGT) and will be based on the nature of the ministry.
- Churches can only apply for one grant at a time.
- Grant amounts will be from \$1,500 to \$20,000 annually*.

*An exception may be made by the Missional Grant Team based on the nature of the ministry.

Applications are due May 5, 2026, and the Proposal Day is TBD. If all the money is not disbursed at the time of the presentations, we will consider receiving applications at another date.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name/title of the applicant (please print): _____

Relationship to requesting church: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Church: _____ EIN#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Website: _____

Program/ministry requesting funding: _____

Amount requested: _____

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

1. Any church considered for grant funding must meet the following criteria:

- Have paid their allocations in full for a minimum of 2 years or provide letter of explanation.
- Have a leader selected who will be assessed by the Missional Grant Team.
- Provide a ministry plan of action (see #2 for more explanation).
- Identify existing or potential ministry partners who can help in growing and sustaining the ministry (i.e., other churches, non-profits, local organizations, etc).
- Be committed to potentially matching district funds or an established portion of the project/program costs.

2. In a separate document, please provide a Ministry Action Plan for the project/program. Include the following:

- Project/program description: Provide the name of the project/program and a concise description of its intent/purpose.
- Statement of need: Describe the issue/problem the project/program attempts to address.
- Desired outcomes: Describe the project/program's objectives in measurable terms and desired outcomes.
- Implementation and timeline: Describe how and when the project/program will be implemented.
- Include a calendar of your plan to evaluate the program's effectiveness at specific time intervals and how that evaluation will take place.
- Budget: Provide all project/program expenses, including necessary training costs and funding from other sources. For example, if you are doing an afterschool program has the Kiwanis been approached for a donation? Have you asked the local school if they would offer funding? Also indicate what portion your church or other entity is providing toward matching funds. We want to know if you are already funding this or how you are willing to invest

3. After receiving a grant: All grant recipients must submit a report detailing the effectiveness of the program to the Upstate NY District Office six months after the project begins. If funding is granted for multiple years, a mid-year report will be expected each year of the grant. This will help the District Advisory Board (DAB) evaluate the grant program's effectiveness.

4. The church must continue to stay up to date on all allocations throughout this process. If your church is not up to date on all allocations and wants to apply, please include a letter describing the circumstances that have led to your church not being current.

SIGNATURE AND SUBMISSION

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

Email to: missionalgrants@upstatedistrict.org or mail your application form and required information to:

Upstate NY District Church of the Nazarene
PO Box 573
Henrietta, NY 14467

Questions?

Contact the District Office at 315-698-9100 or email missionalgrants@upstatedistrict.org.