

Community Engagement Prophetic Ministry Team Grants

In the midst of the ever-changing landscape of ministry in the local setting, congregations that have remained vital and growing are those who are fully embedded in the needs of the larger community. These congregations through engagement make a difference in their local communities and most faithfully live out the call of the gospel, in embodying Christ in the world and working for compassion, justice and mercy for all.

The primary function of our association is to resource, support and strengthen the ministries of our local churches. We do so through providing both professional staff and gifted leaders to assist as needed. We provide financial support for future and present pastors in their professional development, grant financial gifts to congregations involved in mission work and revitalization.

Through the work of the Community Engagement Prophetic Ministry Team we partner with, support and strengthen congregations who see a clear call to engage in the community around them. This ministry could come in a variety of forms as identified by the congregation, such as helping the community to engage in opioid crisis, in voter registration, in nurturing race relations, in developing a community garden, bringing the arts to those who have no access to it, etc. Such ministries can be carried out even in partnership with other congregations.

Community engagement is different than mission and outreach ministry which traditionally has aimed to serve and to help the other. Community engagement requires partnering and working with the other to influence systemic change and progress. A ministry is defined as community engagement when, among other things:

- It builds connections and relationships in the wider community beyond the church
- It partners with others in the larger community to do the ministry
- It influences systemic change and progress toward well-being and justice for all

Fellowship UCC, Wickliffe ended its faithful ministry in its community and gifted the Western Reserve Association with its church building, property and other assets. We were able to realize a profit from the sale of those assets of \$358,584.36. Today, Living Water Association's Council designates these funds for community engagement grants. Disbursement will be made in the same manner as our other designated funds; a percentage to be withdrawn each year as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. Oversight of these funds are the responsibility of the Community Engagement Prophetic Ministry Team. Grants will be offered for one year term renewable up to 3 years.

Applications are to be forwarded to financialadmin@livingwaterone.org by April 30, 2019. Grants will be disbursed in June 2019.

Application for community engagement grant

**Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast
United Church of Christ**

Name of organization _____

Address _____

Name and title of Contact person _____

Telephone number _____

Email Address _____

Amount of Funding requested _____

Please share a brief overview of your organization

Describe the community engagement project for which you are requesting funding (include an itemized spending plan for the project)

Please share the identified need in your larger community to be addressed by the project for which you are requesting funds

Does this project partner and build relationships with others in the wider community?

How does this project influence systemic change and progress toward well-being, healing and justice for all?

Describe the program that will address the special need identified by outlining the project plan. Include staff and material resources needed.

Indicate the number of people you expect to help with this plan in the year for which you are requesting funds.

Share a timeline of the community engagement project

Signatures _____

Completed application forms should be forwarded to machelle@livingwaterone.org