



Grants Initiative Pre-Application Scorecard

Instructions: Rate your project on each criterion from 0-5 (0 = Does not meet at all, 5 = Fully meets)

1. Project Category Alignment (choose the best fit/s):

- Equipping clergy and/or laity for ministry
- Innovative ministry for the proposing entity
- Fostering connections in church, community, district, conference and beyond
- Disaster preparedness and response

Score: ____ / 5

2. Additional Priority Factors:

- Uses matching or self-provided funding
- Involves two or more United Methodist church communities working together
- Actively building endowments at the Foundation
- 100% giving of Conference apportionments (if a UMC)

Score: ____ / 5

3. Innovation and Need:

Is the project innovative, new, or addressing an acute need?

Score: ____ / 5

4. Scope of Impact:

Does the project have the capacity to include or impact multiple churches or organizations?

Score: ____ / 5

5. Sustainability:

Is there a clear plan for sustaining the program/ministry beyond the grant funding?

Score: ____ / 5

6. Alignment with UMC Mission:

How well does the project align with the mission and work of the Louisiana United Methodist Church?

Score: ____ / 5

7. Completeness of Application Elements:

Does your planned application include all required elements (project goal, target audience, intended impact, strategies, timeline, evaluation plan, detailed budget)?

Score: ____ / 5

8. Funding Appropriateness:

Does the project avoid requesting funds for personnel costs, brick-and-mortar expenses, or regular operational obligations?

Score: ____ / 5

9. Project Timeline:

Is the project designed as a new or renewed initiative rather than an ongoing program?

Score: ____ / 5

10. Approval and Support:

Have you secured (or have a plan to secure) all necessary approvals from church leadership, district superintendent, or governing board as applicable?

Score: ____ / 5

Total Score: ____ / 50

Scoring Guide:

40-50: Excellent fit, highly competitive application

30-39: Good fit, consider strengthening weaker areas

20-29: Fair fit, may need significant revisions

0-19: Poor fit, consider revisiting project concept

Remember, this scorecard is a guide to help you evaluate and improve your application. A high score doesn't guarantee funding, nor does a lower score necessarily preclude it. Use this tool to identify areas for improvement in your proposal.