



Forward Together in Faith 2026-2027 Grant Application

Forward Together in Faith Grant Application

Thank you for your interest in applying for a grant from the *Forward Together in Faith* campaign of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. We are SEPA together, the body of Christ in the five-county region of Southeastern Pennsylvania, called to share the Good News of God's love with all the world. The mission of our campaign is to support the communities of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod as we enter the changing mission field of the 21st century, in order to more successfully share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The goal of the *Forward Together in Faith* granting process is to provide resources to the congregations and ministries of this synod, in particular as those resources relate to the four pillars of the campaign, which are **Networking, Innovating, Communicating, and Equipping**. **A strong grant application will integrate at least one pillar into their project proposal.**

Networking: Creating and sustaining new networks and partnerships among congregations and leaders. Building bridges within the synod, and with other community partners.

Innovating: Prioritizing piloting new forms of ministry (such as worship, faith formation, and/or community service) and planting new communities of faith, particularly among underserved populations.

Communicating: Training/consulting for websites, social media, and use of other forms of media (e.g. video). Equipping the communication needs for events for communities, multiple congregations, and/or the larger synod.

Equipping: Training for lay leaders, mission/outreach based continuing education for rostered leaders, supporting seminarians.

The application deadline this year will be September 30. After this deadline, the grant team will meet in order to read applications. You will receive acknowledgment of receipt of your application within one week of applying. By December 31 you will receive approval or denial of your application. In the event of denial, you will receive an explanation. In the event of approval, you will receive a letter explaining next steps. Funds will be distributed annually no later than January 31, 2027.

A congregation or agency may only receive one grant per annual grant cycle. Grants will be considered ONLY for NEW programs/ministries, not on-going ones. Grants may NOT be used to cover salaries.

Thank you, again, for your commitment to moving *Forward Together in Faith*, being the body of Christ in southeastern Pennsylvania in the 21st century.

Kind regards,

The *Forward Together in Faith* Grant Team

Instructions

Please submit this application, along with your project summary/budget and any related information, by September 30 (received at Synod Office).

To submit via email, fill in and save this application form and email it, along with attachments in Word or PDF format, to campaign@sepa.org

To submit via US mail, print and fill in this application and send it, along with your typed project summary and any other attachments, to:

**Forward Together in Faith Grants
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
7241 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119-1723**

Thank you for your participation in the *Forward Together in Faith* campaign, we look forward to working together to enrich the mission and ministries of the vibrant faith communities of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Section I: Project Description

Name of Project/Ministry: _____

Please provide a brief description of the Project/Ministry (2-3 sentences):

Estimated Project Cost: _____

Grant amount you are requesting from the campaign: _____

Timeline for project: _____

Referring to the description of the Forward Together in Faith pillars in the cover sheet, please indicate which one best exemplifies your project:

☒ Networking

☐ Innovating

☐ Communicating

☐ Equipping

In your own words, how do you believe this project exemplifies the *Forward Together in Faith* campaign? Please address how the particular pillar will impact the life of your congregation or community. Please use additional pages as needed.

Section II: Project Summary

Please summarize the unmet needs, outcomes, and strategies that your project will address. You may attach a typed project summary answering **all** of these questions rather than use the space below. Creative summaries (slideshows, videos, etc.) will be accepted **in addition to** the typed summary. What

need(s) will this project address in your congregation, your community, or in the wider church?

What outcomes do you hope to accomplish through this project?

What steps will you take to work toward those outcomes?

Who is the project team? Who will you partner with?

How will you spend grant funds? (Attach a project budget)

How will your congregation be changed by this project and its outcomes?

Is there anything else you would like the Grant Team to know? If so, please include that information on a separate page, attached to this document.

Section III: Synodical Background

How did your congregation participate in the *Forward Together in Faith* campaign? (E.g. Did you host an Ambassador? Did you participate in the CAT or MAP? Did you pledge to the campaign?)

How does your congregation/community participate in the mission and ministries of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod? (E.g. Youth ministry, Synod Council, Synodical ministry teams, council officers gathering, ADLA, Helping Hands Day, etc.) Please describe:

Are you currently, or are you planning on, applying for any other SEPA grants? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If so, which grant(s)? _____

Section IV: Follow Up and Results

Is your congregation committed to attending the next Synod Assembly? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How will you share the story of your project within your congregation and community?

If you receive a grant you will be required to report back on your project and you may be asked to participate in synod publicity efforts. Will you agree to (**check an answer** for each question):

Take and submit Pictures/Videos/Other Media: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Notify synod communications of public events and opportunities for visuals? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Host photographer/videographer: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you receive the grant, will you agree to provide receipts/invoices to the designated representative of the *Forward Together in Faith* Grant Team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you willing to attend a follow up meeting with the grant team to discuss successes, failures, and learnings from the grant process? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "No" for any of the above, please describe below:

Section V: Sign Off and Approval

Applicant Printed Name: _____ Applicant Signature: _____
Email: _____ Phone Number: _____
Role in Congregation / Project: _____
Pastor/s Name/s: _____ Pastor/s Signature: _____
Congregation Name: _____
Congregation Address: _____

To submit:

- Fill in this form, print and sign, and mail to the address above.
- Fill in this form, save and email to campaign@sepa.org, then print/sign signature page and mail to the address above.

Official Use Only: Forward Together in Faith Grant Team

Has this congregation attended Synod Assembly over the past 3 years?

Circle One: Yes or No

Has this congregation filed a parochial report over the past 3 years?

Circle one: Yes or No

What percentage of their (*regular giving OR total operating budget*) goes to Mission Support?__%

What was their Mission Support to SEPA in 2023:_____ 2024: _____ 2025 _____