

# The Congregational Development Fund, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area 2020 Grant Description and Application Form

## Fund Description

The Congregational Development Fund has been established by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area to grow the Body of Christ by supporting innovative, and perhaps risky, ministry initiatives at the congregational level. The Presbytery intends that the use of grant funds will result in revitalized congregations, new forms of ministry in our Presbytery, growing and healthy partnerships, and most importantly, new disciples and transformed lives.

The PTCA's Committee on Congregational Vitality (CCV) will solicit proposals and appoint a grant review team to evaluate proposals and recommend recipients. The Presbytery Leadership Team is the final approving body. All grants will be reported to Presbytery at the meeting following their award, including a brief summary of the proposed initiative and the grant amount. Applications are due by May 1, 2020. Grant awards will be announced at the September 2020 Presbytery meeting. In 2020, up to \$105,000 in grant funds will be available.

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. Funding preference will be given to proposed ministry initiatives in which a clear commitment of a congregation's own human or financial resources is also present. Grants from this fund are not to be for annual budget support of a congregation. The funds may be used for capital improvements only if those improvements are clearly and directly connected with an innovative ministry initiative.

Completed applications may be submitted to the Presbytery by mail or electronically to the Committee on Congregational Vitality through Jennifer Schultz, PTCA office manager, at [office@ptcaweb.org](mailto:office@ptcaweb.org) by May 1, 2020. Please put Congregational Development Fund application in the subject line. Questions can be addressed to one of the grant review team co-chairs, Rev. Karen Larson ([larsonkarenrose@gmail.com](mailto:larsonkarenrose@gmail.com)) or Rev. Scott Larson ([scott@salmail.net](mailto:scott@salmail.net)), or to Executive Presbyter Jeff Japinga ([ep@ptcaweb.org](mailto:ep@ptcaweb.org)).

## General Parameters for Decision-Making

As criteria in evaluating applications, the grant review team and the Presbytery Leadership Team will consider the following qualities of the proposed ministry initiative:

1. It is likely to revitalize the congregation, make disciples and change lives.
2. It reflects original and creative thinking for this particular congregation.
3. It addresses a contemporary ministry challenge and looks to the future rather than the past for its vision.
4. It demonstrates the congregation's willingness to change and take risks to address ministry challenges.
5. The congregation is equipped to be successful with the proposed ministry initiative, and has the right leadership, human and financial resources, and outside partnerships in place. It can become sustainably funded by the congregation in the future.
6. It has a clear plan for evaluation.
7. There is potential for other congregations in the Presbytery to learn or benefit from the proposed ministry initiative.

**PTCA Congregational Development Grant  
Application Form**

**Application Deadline: May 1, 2020**

**Brief Title of Proposed Ministry Initiative:** \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal Description (answers to all questions are required)

1. Describe the initiative you are proposing. What will happen and who will be served? How will it revitalize your congregation, make disciples, and transform lives? (500 words or less)
2. How is this initiative original and creative for your congregation? What new idea or practice does it introduce? (125 words or less)
3. What contemporary ministry challenge(s) is this initiative addressing? (125 words or less)
4. What changes will your congregation have to make to ensure the initiative's success, and how does it plan to make them? What risks will it require you to take? (125 words or less)
5. Describe the leadership, resources, and partnerships you plan to leverage to ensure success for this initiative. What resources will the congregation commit to ensure success? (500 words or less)
6. How will you measure the success of this ministry initiative? (125 words or less)
7. How will you share this with other churches in the Presbytery so they can learn and benefit? (125 words or less)

**Amount of Funding Requested: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a budget showing how these funds will be spent, either for the total ministry initiative itself, or as a distinct portion of a larger budget.

**The Session approved this application on** \_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Clerk of Session

**Note: The Committee on Congregational Vitality requires two reports from funded congregations, at 6 months and 12 months after receiving the grant. Each report should include an update on the progress of the ministry initiative, how the funds have been spent to that point, and its results so far. Failure to provide requested reports could negatively impact future funding requests.**