



## GRANTS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRY INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

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Re-established in 2008, the Grants and Financial Assistance Ministry provides funding for a variety of ministry and stewardship initiatives. Applicants should review this description before designing a grant proposal. Assistance is available if applicants wish to explore a project before submitting an application.

The Foundation's Board of Directors selected five categories for proposals. The Application Categories, described below, identify different ways proposals can support mission and ministry through stewardship development. Proposals may include more than one category. Examples are located on page 2.

**DIRECT AID:** Addressing human need through missions or ministry

**GIVING GROWTH:** Enabling growth in financial giving and resources

**RESOURCE SUBSIDIES:** Increasing access to resources

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** Increasing access to training

**AFFIRMATIONS:** Affirming positive steps, investments or accomplishments

In addition, proposal review will consider the following Evaluation Criteria.

- ◆ **Alignment** Your Foundation works hard to be the leading financial and educational stewardship resource center for United Methodists, and to promote faithful stewardship in churches, agencies and ministry sites. We are more likely to fund proposals that complement our work by promoting faithful stewardship and/or taking advantage of our financial and educational stewardship resources.
- ◆ **Systemic Impact** We like to do more than just meet today's need. We also like to strengthen your capacity to do more in the future. So, we invest resources strategically where they can strengthen tomorrow's ministry and service as well as today's. While we may be able to meet an immediate need, proposals should promote creative stewardship and funding development supporting the project's future mission and ministry and strengthening long-term sustainability.
- ◆ **Catalyst/Leverage** Sometimes, it helps to have money to raise money. We encourage churches, agencies, and ministries to be both creative and holistic in their thinking about how a little money now could leverage more money tomorrow. Whether you envision a matching grant, a challenge campaign, or some other creative stewardship drive, we invest in projects that have great ideas about how to grow today's mite into tomorrow's ministry. Combinations of fund development initiatives will demonstrate creativity.

The following examples are provided to assist prospective applicants as they consider local projects and initiatives. They are examples and should be used to develop ideas and proposals that fit your local situation. See Grant Application for full description.

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- ◆ A regional ministry wants to expand both its ministry and its endowment development within their funding base. They worked with the United Methodist Foundation of New England (UMFNE) to establish an endowment policy and to launch their endowment development. Funds provided staff time to work on this project as well as to begin implementing a new local ministry immediately. The new ministry and the endowment development will extend both the services and the funding base for the future.

**Application Categories: Direct Aid and Giving Growth**

**Evaluation Criteria: Systemic Impact and Catalyst/Leverage**

- ◆ Seeking to develop a stronger financial base for their tutoring program, a church supported ministry used a matching grant from UMFNE to challenge individual donors to step up their support. An additional grant provided start-up supplies for the fall program. The Advisory Board and UMFNE staff offered a planned giving consultation to persons supporting this ministry to help strengthen their personal philanthropic and stewardship knowledge. Already supported by the local church and other agencies, their goal is to strengthen relationships and solidify finances for the next 3-5+ years.

**Application Categories: Direct Aid and Giving Growth**

**Evaluation Criteria: Alignment, Catalyst/Leverage and Multiple Strategies**

- ◆ A local church faced with financial challenges and engaged in significant community outreach wants to conduct a quality “Allies Campaign” to help expand their funding base beyond worship attendee pledges. Reviewing both personal and organizational allies while conducting a campaign that broadens support, income opportunities and resources, could lead to the creation of a useful model for other urban ministries. Funds provided will support leadership and professional services for this project.

**Application Categories: Giving Growth and Resource Subsidies**

**Evaluation Criteria: Alignment, Systemic Impact and Catalyst/Leverage**

- ◆ A local church responded to current personal finance needs of members and offered the Freed Up Financial Living course to members and to friends from the local Food Bank. They changed lives within their church and their community and plan to offer the training again. The Foundation provided a rebate to offset the cost of the materials.

**Application Categories: Direct Aid and Resource Subsidies**

**Evaluation Criteria: Alignment and Catalyst/Leverage**

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