

Living Water Association, Ohio North East, United Church of Christ Congregational Vitality and Development Team (CVT)

FUNDING APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The mission of CVT is to plan for and development of new congregations within the Living Water Association, as well as to provide financial support to redefine and strengthen the ministry of local congregations. CVT will consider funding requests for:

- New Communities of Faith.
- Congregational Renewal Projects.
- Congregational Redevelopment Projects.

Funding requests should have some, or all, of the following characteristics:

- New communities of faith projects.
- Leadership support for new communities of faith and/or congregational renewal projects .
- Revitalization Projects that are innovative and practical.
- Projects that have specific measurable outcomes and a tangible impact for evaluating and measuring success.
- Projects that strengthen the capacity of the local community of faith to solve problems or seize opportunities for growth.
- Projects that have identified potential for congregational support beyond the life of the grant.

Funding requests may be sought for up to three years of support. Exceptions may be made for very unusual or special circumstances. First year grant awards range from \$3,000 to \$10,000. In the case of multi-year awards, funding is on a decreasing basis with funding levels in year's two and three at one-third less (e.g. Year 1 -\$3,000, Year 2-\$2,000, Year 3-\$1,000).

Funding Request Submissions may be made any time during the calendar year, and Funding Application Forms must be completed and submitted to the Association.

FUNDING PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Church Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Contact Person: _____

Title: _____ Telephone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Project must clearly show emphasis area in line with the Congregational Vitality Team's mission:

Project Category (check all that apply):

- New Communities of Faith
- Congregational Renewal
- Congregational Redevelopment

Purpose of grant: _____

Project Description: see attached

Timeline for project: _____

First year amount requested: _____

Are you asking for grants from other United Church of Christ sources? Yes No

If yes, please identify: _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. **Church Life:** Tell us about your church: what you would say to someone who says, "tell me about your church."
2. **Vision:** What is the written vision for your church? (How is your church distinctive? How can your church change lives? Why does your church matter?)
3. **Mission:** What is the mission for your church? (How are you going to accomplish your vision? How are you going to build a Christian community?)
4. **Plan:** Tell us about the plan to Revitalize/Renew/Redevelop your congregation.
5. **Demographic Research (www.missioninsite.com) Please include a copy of the data.** What does the demographic research show? Who are the potential members?
6. **Leadership Team:** Who are the members of your leadership team and what skill sets do they have to accomplish your goal? Include items such as faith journey, history with the current church, core values and experiences that will help you equip this congregation to revitalize.
7. **Church History:** Attendance, membership, giving, budget and expenses for the last 5 years.
8. **Tell us about your church facility:** When was it built? Is it accessible?
9. **Timelines and Benchmarks:** Provide goals for redevelopment/revitalization of your congregation. What metrics will you use to measure success?
10. **Budget:** What is the budget for the proposed timeline? Please include a detailed narrative budget for the next 5 years.
11. **Financial Stability:** How will you utilize grant funds? How will you offset declining grant funding? How will you raise new dollars in the future?
12. **Identify your coach.** (Someone who is specifically trained to work with congregations in their efforts to revitalize/redevelop.)