

Dear Newark Presbytery Congregation Leaders,

The Service and Witness Team of the Newark Presbytery Ministry Leadership Team is pleased to invite Newark Presbytery churches to work together to build ministry and to apply for grants that seek to transform their congregation and communities in service to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We seek to support and celebrate projects, mission, and ministry that address your congregation's unique gifts and passions for following Christ into places of brokenness in our communities to heal, to partner, and to love.

The Service and Witness team seeks to be more than a grant making arm of the Presbytery. We aim to facilitate opportunities for congregations to gather and share their stories of ministry, both in areas of current common interest and in places of potential partnership. Learning from one another, we can leverage our expertise and form stronger mission networks. These opportunities may be part of Presbytery meetings of their own gatherings.

As of 2018 and moving forward, we are not targeting an area of ministry with a designated amount of funding, as we chose to do with Food Security Ministry projects in 2017. With available mission funding, we feel we have resources to support churches across mission fields, including the area of food security.

We have modified the grant application based on learning from the inaugural year. These changes continue to encourage churches to develop partners in ministry where possible and to request funds to build your ministry (and not supplant your mission budget). We have clarified the budget information we request and hope it is clearer. This includes an explicit request for the amount of mission funds allocated by each church budget reflecting its commitment to the ministry so that these additional funds will have a significant impact and make a difference.

General Grant Information

Submission Deadlines

- Generally, there are two submission deadlines per year. Please refer to the Presbytery's website to locate the deadlines for the current year. This information can be found at <https://newarkpresbytery.org/grants-and-loans/>.

Available Funding

- Mission Action Grants
- Urban Youth Leadership—Funding requests are restricted to small ministry grants to churches involved in inner city urban outreach within the bounds of Newark Presbytery. Funded proposals will focus on outreach work to youth, leadership development and community engagement with youth constituencies outside the walls of the church.

Maximum Grant Request - \$5,000

Grant Application Guidelines—Please incorporate the following in a 2-3 page description of your ministry and funding request.

- VISION: Describe the vision for the project / description of the current project. Please tie your request to two (or more) of the 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality (included herein). Is this a new project / current program / expanding program? Is it a short-term project or a long-term program? Include a timeline for the use of the funding.
- IMPACT: How does this project / ministry impact your church and community and move the church forward?
- WHO: Who is doing the ministry? Whom are you serving? How does your ministry matter to their lives?
- TIMELINE: Please submit a timeline for your project that includes how you will carry out this work and the time frame for which the money will be used.
- SUCCESS: What does success look like?
- FINANCIAL MATTERS: Please attach an income and expense budget for your previous and current fiscal years. Include your church's contribution to the project, which should be at least 30% of the program expenses, including an assumption of 15% allocation of administrative expenses.
- PRESBYTERY RELATIONSHIP: Is your project connected to other Presbytery or community partners?
- WHAT ELSE? Do you have anything else we should know about that we haven't asked?

Budget Template – Please use / expand upon this table when submitting your budget.

Budget	Total Cost	Church Contribution	Grant Request

Please send all information to the Newark Presbytery Service & Witness Team c/o Reverend Dr. Barbara Smith, revdocbsmith@gmail.com

7 Marks of Congregational Vitality

- 1. LIFELONG Discipleship Formation** VS. *Complacent "Christian" piety, simply teaching good morals, or offering the latest programs.*
 - "The righteousness that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God based on faith." Phil. 3:9b
 - From the cradle to the grave seeking to be formed for right living with God and with all people.
 - Faith – seeking understanding, cultivating wisdom, and actively following Christ; not an extra-curricular or merely head-knowledge.
 - Discipleship awakened and engaged in issues facing today's culture: injustice, inequality, divisive segregation, oppression, suffering, abuse of creation.
 - Discipleship formed and strengthened in the community of Christ and permeates daily practices and daily living.
- 2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism** VS. *"Jesus freaks"; "Christian" Hypocrisy; A committee.*
 - "We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God." 2 Cor. 4:7
 - Intentionally sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, not just acts of kindness.
 - Authentically sharing Christ because it is intrinsic to self-identity; overflow of Christ in our life.
 - Relational, not programmatic or systematic
- 3. Outward Incarnational Focus** VS. *Inward Institutional Survival; Closed communities of assimilation/exclusion.*
 - "The gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matt. 7:14
 - Outward exploration, awareness, and focus on neighbors and neighborhood.
 - Beyond relationship with those of similar existence, the incarnate Christ dwells among the lowly & least, the stranger & the suffering, the marginalized & majority.
 - Missional focus on where Christ is already living and present, and calling us to dwell.
- 4. Empower Servant Leadership** VS. *the Pastor's job; monopolized leadership; hiring the young energetic pastor*
 - "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers." Matt. 9:37-38.
 - Identify, nurture, support the use of spiritual gifts of all people to serve; not monopolized cliques of power.
 - All voices and people are necessary, and it is noticeable when people are absent/missing.
 - Nurture and encourage those specifically called and gifted for pastoral ministry.
- 5. Spirit-Inspired Worship** VS. *Self-gratifying worship, stale ritual divorced of meaning, or consumer entertainment worship*
 - "These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote." Isaiah 29:13
 - Worship is about God. We get to come on holy ground, encounter God, and experience wonder.
 - Worship is active participation in the living relationship of the triune God, thus *all* should feel welcome just as they are to come.
 - Worship challenges, teaches, transforms, encounters, convicts, and sends people out different.
- 6. Caring Relationships** VS. *Any other Social Club; façades, hypocrisy, and judgment of "church" and "religion."*
 - "By this everyone will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35
 - Sharing in God's true agape moves us beyond half-hearted programmatic participation, lukewarm faith, and pretending.

- Instead of a closed, judgmental community, people find freedom to share stories, encounter the Savior, and ask for help.
- Welcome and hospitality are not left to a committee, but, imperfectly, we strive for *all* people find identity, purpose, and belonging in the household of God.
- Confront conflict, seek reconciliation in all divisions, find ways to embrace all diversity, seek to be peace-makers and bridge builders together.

7. **Ecclesial Health VS. *Unhealthy dysfunction; toxic environments; obsolete and irrelevant buildings***

- “The body does not consist of one member but of many. God has so arranged the body that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.” 1Cor. 12:14, 24b-25
- Understanding of: Why we are a church community? How are we a church community in practice? Prayer permeates all life together.
- Clarity in mission, core-values to ministry, passion and joy in being the church. Our budget reflects these values, vision, and ministries.
- Fiscally responsible—Stewardship and tithing are taught, transparency in spending, continual assessment/discernment of a sustainable budget.
- All are aware of how decisions are made, stake-holders in the process and procedures, valued voices in the envisioning, open to changes, continual assessment of the “why” and “how” we are church together.
- Nurturing and supporting the health of pastor(s), staff, and all called to lead; fighting against burnout.