

PMA President Takes Generous Action to Support COVID-19 Response

ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

Through a very generous offer from the office of the President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency there is an additional \$300,000 available for emergency grants to support congregational continuity. (See attached announcement) The additional funds will be for congregations that have historically been marginalized, are vulnerable, or serving vulnerable communities. The funds can be used for continuity of ministry needs emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Helpful guidance:

- (1) The COVID-19 Emergency Grant form will be used. The grant can be for up to \$7,500. The Emergency Grant form is attached. These grants are in addition to the emergency grants for pandemic response that were announced last week.
- (2) All requests should be submitted to PDA by the mid council (Presbytery) in which the congregation is located. The congregation can submit the required information to the mid council with the request that the mid council submit the request on mid council letterhead with the signature of the mid council leader.
- (3) The original deadline for submitting emergency requests was Friday April 3rd. We know the situation is changing quickly and it takes time to assess the needs. We will consider the emergency grant period to continue through April 30th, 2020. You may apply for the additional grant funds for congregational continuity at any time. We will continue to remain flexible as needs evolve. We will consider the emergency grant applications as they are received.
- (4) Many have asked if a mid council can submit multiple emergency grant requests for multiple congregations, for continuity of ministry and mission activities. **The answer is YES!**
- (5) There will be a second phase of funding for short/long term grants for presbytery or synods considering a broader COVID-19 response. Those interested in these more substantive grants should use the grant form attached. PDA will begin reviewing short/long-term recovery grants shortly after May 1st, 2020. The following priorities will be used to evaluate the short/long-term grant requests.
 - a. Support mid-councils in the most severely impacted states.
 - b. Support communities that have been unfairly disadvantaged due to discrimination and/or limited or no access to recovery resources.
 - c. Support refugees or asylum seekers who may be negatively impacted due to limited or no access to other recovery resources.
 - d. Support for developing new approaches/activities with refugees and asylum seekers due to COVID-19 policies and related constraints.
 - e. Support activities/programs that address the underlying systemic and structural forces contributing to the unjust impact of COVID-19 on certain congregations and/or communities.
 - f. Support activities/programs that are focused on long-term sustainable solutions and are designed to mitigate the adverse impact of a future event.

The response and recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic will take time. Please be assured that all denominational programs are bringing their skills and wisdom to join with you in being the church during this time.

Peace,

Laurie Kraus (Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) Jim Kirk (Associate for Disaster Response U.S.)

James J. Kirk

Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

100 Witherspoon Street Louisville, KY 40202

502-569-5036 (Office)-502-438-5161 (Cell)-502-569-5704 (Fax)

jim.kirk@pcusa.org

www.pcusa.org/pda

Mission Work Team contact: pda.callcenter@pcusa.org, 866-732-6121

Please mail donations to PCUSA, P.O.Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

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