



PENN WEST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Dear Churches of Penn West Conference,

Greetings to you in the beloved name of Jesus Christ! It is an honor to share with you Mission Grant opportunities for the 2017-2018 church program year. Last year, we gave away over \$30,000.00 in Mission Grant awards. You can see the exciting scenes and read about the stories from last year's award ceremony on our website (www.pennwest.org) under Resources >> Mission Grants >> Recent Grant Awards. This year, we hope your congregation will be part of the celebration! We hope that you will find the forms and application process easy to use and beneficial in supporting your efforts to witness for God in Christ in the places of ministry you are called to serve.

The timeline for this year's awards is as follows:

Application Due	October 1, 2017
Committee Reviews Applications	October 1-31, 2017
Announcement of Grants Made	November 1, 2017
Mission Grants Ceremony	November 20, 11 AM, at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 312 S. Maple Ave., Greensburg PA 15601

While we realize that need always far exceeds resources, it is our hope and desire that the funds provided through this process will encourage each of our ministries and related partners to *"never grow weary in doing good"* (*Galatians 6:9*) and to remember that the Penn West Conference stands with you as a ministry partner.

Enclosed you will find a Mission Grants Overview and Application form for your use. Please be in touch with Diane Fox in our office if you have additional questions and she will follow up with us for clarifications as needed. You may also go online to the conference website (<http://www.pennwest.org/>) to download an electronic version of the application or other Mission Grants forms.

Please note that if you received an award in 2016 and applied for a grant in 2017, you must submit your report for the 2016 award by September 15, 2017, in order to be eligible to receive a grant in 2017. Please also note, as mentioned above, that the 2017 Mission Grants Ceremony will be held on Monday, November 20, at 11 AM at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 312 S. Maple Ave., Greensburg PA 15601. We look forward to discovering the many expressions of faithfulness at work in our Body of Christ.

Sending the Blessings of God,

Penn West Conference Mission Grants Committee

Douglas Satterlee (Juniata) · Bruce Ashlock (Somerset) · Peggy Mortimer (Clarion) · Bob McKie (Westmoreland) · Open (Lake Erie) · Open (Pittsburgh) · James Neatrour (Moderator) · Diane Wiley (Assistant Moderator) · David Ackerman and Diane Fox (Staff)

Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ

Mission Grants Overview

2017-2018

Projects and Programs funded by the Penn West Conference Mission Grants Committee must focus on one or more of the following areas. Awards are for one year and there is no commitment to funding beyond the current award cycle. Grants awarded must be spent by the final report due date or the money must be returned to the Penn West Conference. New funding sources for grants are most welcome!

Reaching Out – Funds are available for new or ongoing ministries that support a congregation's efforts to strengthen its relationships and visibility through service to its larger community. Particularly: dismantling racism, eradicating poverty or hunger, empowering peace, supporting worker or environmental justice, strengthening children, youth, families and persons who are differently-abled. Preference will be given to projects and programs that are creative, non-traditional and involve hands-on opportunities for service. Awards can be given to new or existing endeavors. **Maximum award \$1,500.**

Strengthening the Church – Funds are available to support church growth and development within the Penn West Conference. Some examples of this could be leadership development, youth development, and church growth initiatives. Preference will be given to new and innovative ideas for church growth and development. **Maximum award \$1,500.**

Operational Support – Operational awards support local churches in purchasing, updating, maintaining, replacing or repairing facility and equipment, or any worthwhile ministry project or program that helps the congregation provide continuity of mission to its community. Special consideration will be given to congregations striving towards vitality, congregational growth and development. **Maximum award \$1,000.**



FUNDS AWARDED ON BEHALF OF:

KERMIT THOMAS BEQUEST FUND

CORMAN FUND

NEIGHBORS IN NEED FUND

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH FUND

If you or a member of your congregation is interested in learning how to empower our congregations through a special act of generosity, please be in touch with us.

We would be happy to assist you in your efforts.