

Reaching Out – Funds are available for new or ongoing ministries that help alleviate human need and suffering and 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 request \$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 request \$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 request \$1,000.**

ADDITIONALLY



Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy

We are excited about the progress that is being made in the Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy campaign of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ! We hope to raise \$500,000.00, with \$450,000.00 being directed toward our Mission Grants program and \$50,000.00 being directed toward the Pension Boards (United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance) Generations of Service Campaign. The Generations of Service campaign helps with financial assistance to current and future retirees, development of leadership programs, and improvements toward the financial wellness of those in ministry.

The Penn West Conference Mission Grants program provides grants to local churches for operational expenses, programs that reach out to help meet community needs, and initiatives that strengthen churches. We anticipate and expect that this program will also help with new church starts and church growth initiatives in our Conference's life. So far, we have raised over \$144,000 in pledges and gifts toward the campaign!

If you are able and willing, please be in touch with our Conference Minister (david@pennwest.org) to talk about a gift that will have real, transformative impact. Information about the campaign may be found on the homepage of our website at www.pennwest.org. Thank you for your generous support of Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy!

A Mission Grant is:

An financial award given by the Penn West Conference to (insert your church's name here) for one of the following categories:

- Reaching out
- Strengthening the Church
- Operational Support



Grants are financial gifts that do not have to be paid back, provided you have used the funds properly and completed the proper reports in the time frame.

Our Mission Grants program is currently funded by the Kermit Thomas bequest, the Corman fund, and gifts to Neighbors in Need and Strengthen the Church.

Coming Soon - Grants will also be funded by the Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy campaign.

Your gifts to Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission also help to fund the infrastructure that allows our Mission Grants program to take place.

**LOOK INSIDE FOR SOME
PREVIOUS AWARDS!**

The Mission Grants Program of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ continues to make an amazing difference in the lives of our churches. In 2020, we gave away \$38,106.00 worth of grants to our churches to meet operational needs, to reach out in our communities, and to strengthen our churches.

Here are a few of these grants that were awarded in 2020!

“Chairlift repair” at St. Paul’s Community Church in Chicora



St. Paul’s said this about our grant: “These funds were used to support the movement of people, who without this resource could not physically attend

worship services, Sunday School or other Church meetings or other relationship building events. We believe that exposure to the word of our Lord and Savior is a starting point to building lifelong commitments and friendships founded in our common beliefs. Coming through the door is a big first step.



“Trinity-fest/Interfaith festival” at Community United Church in Erie



Community United Church had this to say about the grant: “This event was received so well by not only members and friends of the church but also the community overall.

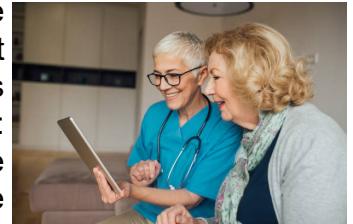
We received such positive feedback about this groundbreaking event. It was shared over and over on social media – starting with a wonderful conversation in and about Community United Church but also the United Church of Christ.



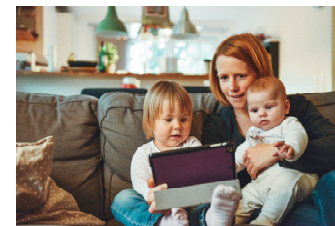
This will hopefully ripple through the surrounding areas and churches.”

“Virtual Fire for the Church” at First United Church of Christ in Irwin

Pastor Steve Craft of First UCC said this about this grant: “The funds were used to provide tablets to people in the church.



By embracing this technology, we are increasing our opportunities to evangelize and share our Gospel mission.



The people who will use these include shut-ins, those with virus concerns, and those living at a distance from the church.”