

TYPES OF MISSION GRANTS

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, you, families and persons who are differently abled. Preference will be given to programs that are creative, non-traditional and involve hands-on opportunities for service. **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 church 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 \$168,804.45 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:

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

- **Reaching Out**
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- **Strengthening the Church**
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- **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.

And, our grants are now being funded by Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy Campaign.

Your gifts to Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission also helps 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 2021, we gave away \$35,277.24 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 the grants that were awarded in 2021!



What do you do if you have bats in your church?

Get a Mission Grant to get them out!

“ The Bat Exclusion Project”

That is what Brush Creek Salem UCC in Irwin did.

“The primary goal and objectives of this project,” they said, “was to eliminate bats making their way into the sanctuary and secondarily, address a looming structure maintenance issue with the wooden eaves” –this project was successful on both fronts!

What is YOUR Church’s story?

“Imagination Library”

St. Paul’s UCC in Somerset started out with a goal that “All children living in Somerset County can register with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library and receive 1 Free high-quality, age-appropriate book by mail each month from birth until their 5th Birthday.”

“Lover of neighbor,” St. Paul’s says to minister to the youngest citizens in our country and create countless opportunities for families to spend quality time together while creating a stronger foundation for literacy and overall increased quality of life within our community.”

How can we support YOU with a Mission Grant?



“Church Growth Community Events”

St. John’s UCC in Evans City received a grant for church growth community events. “Many new residents of the Evan City area and Cranberry Township,” they note, “are not familiar with the United Church of Christ. We have been letting residents know that the UCC supports ‘A Just World for All’ and that St. John’s is a welcoming and inclusive church where they can feel comfortable and can be involved in mission activities as they are able.”

Please be in prayer about this and consider applying for a Mission Grant for Your Church!