

**PENN WEST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
GRANT APPLICATION**

Submitted to Mission Grants Committee

To be completed by applicant – 1 proposal per application.

Please be as complete, thorough, and accurate as possible.

Keep your responses concise and focused on the project.

Section 1:

PROJECT/PROGRAM TITLE:.

AMOUNT REQUESTED:

CONGREGATION NAME:

CONTACT PERSON:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PHONE:.

EMAIL:

FAX:

ORGANIZATION WEB ADDRESS:

Area of Service: Rural Suburban Urban

UCC ASSOCIATION in which this organization is located:

Total Number of Membership:

Average Number in Worship:

Award Category for this application (check):

Reaching Out (\$1,500 maximum award)

Strengthening the Church (\$1,500 maximum award)

Operational (\$1,000 maximum award)

Are you seeking funds from other sources? YES NO

If yes, from whom and whether amounts have been awarded or are pending?

- **DESCRIBE WHETHER THE IMPACT WILL BE FELT IN YOUR CONGREGATION, COMMUNITY OR REGION.**

- **SHARE THE TIMELINE FOR YOUR PROPOSAL.**

PROJECT/PROGRAM BUDGET: Please complete the attached budget indicating all project/program costs and funding sources.

Check the Cover Letter for due date

Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ

Attn.: Mission Grants Committee

312 S. Maple Ave., Suite PWC

Greensburg, PA 15601

Fax: 724-834-0324

[Email: office@pennwest.org](mailto:office@pennwest.org)

Phone: 724-834-0344

The following questions will help us to understand your congregation's view of covenant. The answers are required but will not be used to determine the outcome of your grant request.

1. Do members of your church participate in meetings of the Association or Conference (and/or boards committees, or teams of the Association or Conference) or of Ministry Partners of the Conference?

In addition to the Annual Gathering & Meeting of the Penn West Conference and the Conference Board of Directors, the Conference currently has the following committees and teams: Annual Gathering & Meeting Planning Team, Associate for Youth Ministry Team, Association Presidents, Caring for Churches Caring for Clergy Team, Conference Committee on Ministry, Endowment Committee, Faith Formation Team, Financial Stewards, Global Missions Team, Justice and Witness Team, Legacy Team, Mission Grants Committee, Nominating Committee, Open and Affirming Team, Penn West Academy for Ministry, Personnel Committee, Transformation and Renewal Team, and Weber Memorial Committee. Also, the Conference has the following Ministry Partners that regularly report at our Annual Gathering & Meeting: Breezewood Trucker/Traveler Ministry, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, Hoffman Homes for Youth, Homewood at Martinsburg, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Living Waters Camp and Conference Center, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, and St. Paul's Continuing Care Community. For more information, visit www.pennwest.org.

Yes

No

If no, how might your congregation be encouraged to participate?

2. Does your church support the wider church through donations to Our Church's Wider Mission and the other 5 for 5 offerings?

(The 5 for 5 offerings include Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. For more information, visit www.ucc.org.)

Yes

No

If no, how might your congregation be encouraged to participate?

Church Information

In the United Church of Christ profile, there is a section that allows people to get a better understanding of local churches. We thought it might be helpful to include this section in our Mission Grants application in order to get to know our churches better and to possibly inspire some Mission Grant ideas for our churches. Please note that how you respond to this section will not in any way determine whether or not your church receives grants.

Many local churches love to tell the story of what they are doing in the community to transform lives. Some have identified certain aspects of their witness into the wider community using language shared with other UCC congregations. (Find more information as desired at ucc.org.) Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

___ Accessible to All (A2A)

A2A is the terminology used within the United Church to refer to congregations that have completed the Accessible to All process and thereby made the commitment to be physically and attitudinally welcoming of people with disabilities. The A2A process has for many years been defined by the A2A resource “Any Body, Everybody, Christ’s Body”; the “process” is completed by completing the check list in the back of the A2A resource and sending this checklist to UCC Disabilities Ministries ([A2A | United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries \(uccdm.org\)](http://A2A|UnitedChurchofChristDisabilitiesMinistries(uccdm.org))).

___ Creation Justice

As one of the UCC’s eight [Just World Covenant programs](#), Creation Justice Churches guides congregations in discerning how they can best embody a commitment to care for God’s creation. There are five steps which churches may take to become Creation Justice churches which may be found here: [How It Works: Becoming a Creation Justice Church in Five Steps - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#).

___ Economic Justice

In 2009, General Synod XXVII approved a resolution that established the Economic Justice Covenant Program. The resolution encouraged all congregations and other settings of the UCC to become Economic Justice Churches (or Economic Justice Seminaries, Associations, Conferences, etc): to study economic injustices, pray and discern God’s will for their economic justice ministry, draft and adopt an Economic Justice Covenant, and engage in actions to promote economic justice. This curriculum is designed primarily for a local church but is easily adaptable for the needs of other settings. It may be found here: [Economic Justice Covenant Program - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#).

___ Faithful and Welcoming

The primary purpose of Faithful and Welcoming Churches (FWC) is to promote Christ-centered unity, which we understand to be the founding vision of the United Church of Christ. In that spirit, we encourage churches, pastors, and laity who consider themselves ECOT (evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional) to remain in active covenant in the United Church of Christ. More information may be found here: [Faithful and Welcoming Churches – ECOT’s of the United Church of Christ](#).

___ God Is Still Speaking (GISS)

If you think God’s not finished with you yet, guess what? God’s not even finished with God yet. God isn’t finished with you, or finished with the church or our world, or even letting us

know more about God's own compassion, justice, hope, and truth. If you are open, if you listen carefully, you'll discover what God is saying to this generation at this time in history. There's more good news to be heard! For more on God Is Still Speaking, visit [We Listen for a Still-speaking God - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#).

___ Border and Immigrant Justice

Become an immigrant welcoming congregation. The Journey toward becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation involves multiple study and reflection sessions. Download this wonderful toolkit created by our UCC Southwest Conference: [Becoming an immigrant welcoming congregation updated Nov 1 2012.pdf \(uccfiles.com\)](#).

___ Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M)

In 1993, the 19th General Synod of the United Church of Christ issued a pronouncement, "Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church." For more information on this, visit here: [Multi-Racial Multi-Cultural Church - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#).

___ Just Peace

The Just Peace Church vision is a hallmark of United Church of Christ theological identity. For over two decades, the Just Peace Church pronouncement has inspired a grassroots movement of UCC congregations committed to corporately naming and boldly proclaiming a public identity as a justice-doing, peace-seeking church. For more information, visit [Just Peace - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#).

___ Global Mission Church

The Global Mission Church initiative can be used to propel a congregation into new global relationships or to affirm numerous engagements already in place. Whether your next step is to pray regularly for a missionary, study globalization, or plan a People-to-People group mission trip, we encourage you to make the decision to put a foot forward and take a step into world mission. Being a Global Mission Church will challenge your members to stretch toward a new level of interest in, and commitment to, God's world. Wherever your congregation fits, the Global Mission Church guidebook is for congregations to explore new relationships with partners or to affirm global mission already in place. For more information, please visit [Be a Global Mission Church! - Global Ministries](#).

___ Open and Affirming (ONA)

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. To learn how to become Open and Affirming, visit [UCC Open and Affirming Coalition | How](#).

___ WISE Congregation for Mental Health

A WISE (Welcoming Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) congregation has joined the mission to being Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged in the Mental Health of the community and the wider world. To learn more about becoming a WISE Congregation for Mental Health, visit [becomingaWISEcongregationformentalhealth2019ed.pdf \(moredomainsforless.com\)](#).