



PENN WEST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"ENGAGING IN COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS; SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL"
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March 25, 2024

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 2024-2025 church program year. Last year, we gave away **\$42,236.00** 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 are planning to deliver the awards directly to our churches.** This is a change from past practice, and we hope it will allow peoples congregations, and not just representatives of them, to share in the celebration of the awards. We hope that you will find the grant forms and application process easy to use and beneficial in supporting your church's efforts to share God's love with all.

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

Application Due	October 1, 2024
Committee Reviews Applications	October 1-31, 2024
Announcement of Grants Made	November 1, 2024

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, Application, and Application Budget form for your use. In keeping with our Mission Statement, the application has a section emphasizing our covenantal relationship, which must be completed. Please reach out to us to let us know if there are ways that we can be of help in strengthening covenantal ties with your congregation. Please also be in touch with Diane Fox in our office if you have additional questions. You may also go on to our website as described above to download an electronic version of the application or other Mission Grants forms, including our Mission Grants Process Checklist. We are also enclosing that checklist here in this mailing (along with my annual Insurance Board letter to our churches).

Please note that if you received Mission Grant in 2023 and are applying for a grant in 2024, you must submit your Final Report and/or remit unused funds for the 2023 award by September 13, 2024, in order to be eligible to receive a grant in 2024. We look forward to discovering many expressions of faithfulness among our churches!

Sending the Blessings of God,

Penn West Conference Mission Grants Committee

Mary Hendricks (Juniata) · Joseph Beer (Somerset) · Jill Marie (Clarion) · Robert Krueel (Westmoreland) · Alice Niebauer (Lake Erie) · Jon Colburn (Pittsburgh) · Dave Mears (Moderator) · Liddy Barlow (Assistant Moderator) · David Ackerman and Diane Fox (Staff)

Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ

Mission Grants Overview

2024-2025

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 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.**



FUNDS AWARDED ON BEHALF OF:

KERMIT THOMAS BEQUEST FUND

CORMAN FUND

NEIGHBORS IN NEED FUND

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH FUND

CARING FOR CHURCHES, CARING FOR

CLERGY 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.