



New Church/Community/Place IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION

The purpose of the Implementation Grant is to assist groups in creating a new church/faith community/place *(see definitions below)*. We are looking for projects which are innovative and missional, reaching people not currently part of a faith community. We value clear theology and a commitment to the UMC connection (or its successor). A team approach is critical. We are looking for new churches/faith communities/places which are multi-ethnic, diverse, contextual, and strategic. A clear plan is important. In addition, built into that plan there needs to be avenues for evaluation and adaptation along the way. All projects must have a plan for financial self-sustainability within 5 years.

Name of Project: _____

Applicant(s): _____

Parent/Partner Church(es): _____

District/Location: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Summary of Funds being requested: _____

(Typically funding coincides with the appointment year July through June, though exceptions are made. Indicate amount and timing of funds requested.)

Definitions

All new churches/communities/places should be committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ and:

- *be theologically Wesleyan*
- *teach and practice biblical stewardship*
- *be missional and work toward community transformation*
- *remain connected and accountable to The United Methodist Church or its successor*
- *be committed to multiplying the mission through planting a new church, community or place every 3-5 years.*

A New Church is *a project that intends to become an independent congregation that will be self-governing, self-funding, and provide for its own leadership. Further, it:*

- *Worships regularly and celebrates the sacraments*
- *has effective systems for making disciples of Jesus Christ*
- *receives new members*
- *anticipates chartering as an independent congregation or existing as an additional site of an existing congregation*
- *participating in conference apportionments*

A New Faith Community is *a project of an existing congregation or group to create a new worshiping and disciple making community. It is focused on reaching those outside of any existing church and will likely not be self-governing. It should eventually be self-funding but will be reliant on an existing congregation (or other group) for some of its necessary resources like leadership development and facilities. Further, it:*

- *worships regularly and celebrates the sacraments*
- *has effective systems for making disciples of Jesus Christ*

A New Place for New People is *a smaller project of an existing congregation or team to create a new opportunity for those outside of any congregation to encounter a disciple making practice. It does not intend to be self-governing and will be reliant on an existing congregation (or other group) for its necessary resources. Further, it:*

- *involves a regular community building activity*
- *has access to effective systems for making disciples of Jesus as part of its own practices or in partnership with an existing congregation*

Guidelines

Financial support for planter/pastor salary and/or programming for the first 2 years may be made available through this grant by mutual agreement on the vision and strategy of a new church, faith community, or place. Once funding is approved, we

will convene a Stakeholder's meeting to agree upon benchmarks to evaluate progress and create a supportive base. The funding may be continued over an additional time period, up to 5 years, on a declining basis. The Congregational Vitality Committee (CVC) and New Church Development team works in partnership with the Cabinet to oversee these ministries. We also provide support for coaching, training, and peer planter cohorts.

Applicants must have:

- made an initial assessment of the basic demographics including but not limited to the target area, current and projected population, age distribution of population, current neighboring United Methodist churches, and other relevant information. Mission Insite is a great tool for this work.
- established a Launch Team which is meeting regularly and having conversations with individuals in the target population. Launch Team members include those who will play an **active role** in the creation of the new faith community. Team size will vary with new places requiring at least three people, new faith communities at least seven people, and new churches at least eleven people.
- created a Strategic Ministry Action Plan (including a timeline, benchmarks & budget) for the first 2-3 years for the new ministry. This Strategic Ministry Plan must address worship and multiplication, intentional discipleship formation for all ages, leadership development, community engagement and mission, outreach to connect with new people, etc.
- if this project is working with a parent or partner church, that church must complete the Readiness 360 evaluation. In addition, the parent/partner church must answer question #4 below. It is highly recommended that all new churches/communities/places establish a relationship with a parent or partner church.

Note: additional financial commitments outside of conference funding are required for any project requesting this grant. This can come from parent/partner churches, individuals, or pledges from the launch team.

Process

- The requesting group will submit this completed application to the Congregational Vitality Committee by **December 31**.
- If the planting strategy is Parent/Child or Multi-site the parent church must complete a Readiness 360 Assessment.
- Planting pastor/lay leader must complete the Church Planter Assessment Process.
- CVC will review and provide input on the Ministry Action Plan. Notification of grant award will be done in February.
- Once approved, the group will prepare quarterly written updates on the progress to date and status of benchmarks using the form provided. The planting

pastor/leader will participate in a monthly cohort of other planters in our conference.

- The group will prepare a thorough review of the project using the format provided at the 18-month mark. CVC will review and make recommendations to the District Superintendent about the continuation of the project at that point.
- By the end of the 6-year period the group will prepare a final report on lessons learned. (or earlier if the project ceases or takes a new direction.) This report is to be sent to CVC and be made available to other groups seeking to start new faith communities. It is anticipated that the new ministry will be self-sufficient after the 6-year period.

Creating a Plan

Background

Provide a brief (1-3 paragraph) history of how this project came to be.

Include your Ministry Action Plan

A robust and flexible strategic ministry action plan is essential to success of a project. This plan must include SMART goals for outreach, worship, discipleship, community engagement, leadership development, stewardship, and growth toward financial sustainability.

Answer the following questions:

- 1) What type of project are you starting?
 - a) Is it a new church, faith community, or place(see definitions above)?
 - b) If it is a new church or faith community, what strategy of church planting will you use? see <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/new-church-development-strategies>
- 2) What is the vision of your new church/community/place?
- 3) Have you identified a key leader (planting pastor or lay leader)? If not, detail what qualities, skills, and experiences you think will be essential for a successful leader of this project. If so, have the person describe his/her calling to this specific ministry?
- 4) Have you identified a parent/partner church? (*This is highly recommended. You are not alone. A parent/partner church is benefit of our connectional system.*) If so, have the pastor and a key lay leader answer the following questions:
 - a) Who is the parent/partner church, senior pastor, and key lay leader?
 - b) Why does your church want to be the parent/partner church?
 - c) How do you envision this to be a synergistic relationship?
 - d) How will you as a parent/partner church nurture the life of and relationship with the new church/community/place over the next 3+ years?

- e) How will you partner with the planter to cast vision for the new church/community/place and recruit people to participate?
 - f) What do you expect the planter pastor/leader to contribute to the parent/partner church?
 - g) What kinds of resources are you willing to contribute (such as: people, leaders, administrative support, facilities, finances, other)?
- 5) Who is your target group?
- a) What particular geographic, demographic, or affinity group are you trying to reach?
 - b) What does your demographic research show about this group in your area?
 - c) Who on your team is part of this group?
 - d) Why is there a need for a new church/community/place for this group?
 - e) Where will this be located?
- 6) Describe your launch team. A launch team is the group of people who will initially help you start this new project for the first year or so. Include their names, contact information, roles. Who are you still looking for to complete your launch team? What training have or will you and your launch team attend?
- 7) What other assets/resources are available to your project?
- 8) What strategies will you and your launch team use to encounter and build relationships with your target group?
- 9) Financials. Include a spreadsheet that details a budget and anticipated income for the first 12-24 months. (*Having multiple income streams is important.*)
- 10) Provide a list of all current financial commitments made to this project including pledges from you, your launch team, your parent/partner church, other grants, and other funding streams.

Signatures

Attach any additional supporting documentation for this request. If this project focuses on a specific geographic area Mission Insite reports are highly encouraged. Any additional demographic data about the population you expect this project to serve would also be valuable.

A DS Advisory Form must accompany this request.

Signature of Applicant(s)

Date

Signature of Pastor of Parent/Partner Church

Date

Signature of Lay Leader/Ad Council Chair/or equivalent of Parent/Partner Church

Date

Submission Details

E-Mail this form and all supporting documentation to the Congregational Vitality Committee Chairperson Patti Agnew at pattiagnew3@gmail.com by December 31.

We will invite you to come present your proposal at our meeting held in Denver in January. You can either come in person or use Zoom. If you have any questions, contact Patti Agnew by email or cell (303)960-5257 or Michael Smith, Superintendent of Congregational and Community Vitality at msmith@mtnskyumc.org