WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

The World Communion Offering Grant Program supports ministries that reflect reconciliation as experienced at Christ's Table. Funded projects should clearly align with one or more of the following World Communion Offering focus areas:

- Racial justice
- Gender justice
- Peacemaking
- Global witness
- Ecumenical and interfaith relationships

Grants are designed to support practical, community-based ministry efforts that reflect these values within congregations and mid councils.

WHO MAY APPLY

Eligible applications include Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations and mid councils. Applicants may apply individually or in collaboration with other PC(USA) councils.

Projects may also include partnerships with community organizations, ecumenical partners, interfaith organizations or other collaborative ministry partners when the proposed ministry aligns with the purposes of the World Communion Offering Grant Program.

The applying PC(USA) council will serve as the primary grant recipient and be responsible for grant administration and reporting requirements.

Participation in the World Communion Offering is not required to apply.

WHAT THE GRANT CAN SUPPORT

Grant funds may be used for expenses related to:

- Designing or launching a new ministry initiative
- Expanding or strengthening an existing program
- Materials, supplies or modest project-related expenses
- Outreach, education or communication related to the project

All expenses must directly support the activities described in the application and align with the World Communion Offering focus areas listed above.

GRANT RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Grant funds are intended to support meaningful ministry participation and are not intended for uses unrelated to the approved project or program.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The World Communion Grant Program understands ministry broadly and recognizes that ministries of reconciliation, justice, witness and relationship-building take many forms across congregations, mid councils and communities.

Examples of projects that may be supported include but are not limited to:

- Anti-racism education and dialogue initiatives
- Peacemaking workshops or community conversations
- Ecumenical or interfaith partnerships and events
- Global witness or mission-related educational programs
- Ministries that strengthen relationships, understanding and reconciliation within communities

These examples are intended to illustrate the broad range of ministries that may align with the purposes of the World Communion Offering Grant Program and are not intended to limit creative or emerging ministry ideas.

GRANT AMOUNTS

Typical awards: $500–$1,000.
Occasional awards up to $5,000, based on project scope and funds available.
Funds are distributed in a single payment following approval and completion of a grant agreement.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Applications open annually at the beginning of the World Communion Offering "Season of Preparation," generally around Labor Day
- The application deadline is Jan. 15 of the following calendar year
- Applications are reviewed January through March
- Award notifications are distributed in the spring
- Grant funds are distributed following award acceptance and completion of any required grant agreement materials

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are submitted through the PC(USA) Grants Management System at pcusa.org/wcograntsapp.

The application is intentionally brief and focused on clarity. It should take 15 minutes or less to fill out the application online once all required content and responses to questions have been collected.

To help you collect the information and responses to questions needed to submit the application online, please review the section below titled "What to Include in the Application."

The application collects demographic information to be used for statistics and to match applications to other grant and leadership development opportunities.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN THE APPLICATION

We encourage you to collect the following information before submitting your grant application online. Applicants will be asked to:

- Enter their congregation, new worshiping community or mid council EIN (Employer Identification Number)
- Confirm or update their organization's contact info: website, email, address, phone
- Add the grant project contact person and contact info
- Describe the ministry or project and its purpose
- Explain how the project reflects one or more World Communion Offering focus areas
- Outline how grant funds will be used
- Share hopes for the project's impact

Applicants will also agree to:

- Use funds as described in the application
- Share brief stories, images and/or reflections about the project's impact for reporting and interpretation purposes

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Applications are reviewed by a small committee at the end of January and February each year. The committee evaluates whether:

- Eligibility requirements are met
- The project aligns with the World Communion Offering focus areas and values
- The proposal is clear and achievable

Decisions are made by majority vote, and applicants will be notified as soon as possible following grant approval or disapproval.

Once a grant is approved, the applicant and PL&W representatives will review and sign a grant agreement. Following submission of all signatures on the grant agreement, the funds will be disbursed within 10 business days.

REPORTING AND STORY SHARING

Grant funds are expected to be used within approximately 12 months of award distribution. Grant recipients will submit a brief follow-up report sharing how funds were used, the impact of the project or program, and stories or reflections that may help interpret the ministry supported through the World Communion Offering.

Recipients are encouraged to include photos, flyers, worship materials, program resources or other supporting materials that help tell the story of the ministry and illustrate the impact of the World Communion Offering. These shared stories and materials help the wider church understand the ways the World Communion Offering supports ministries of reconciliation, justice, witness and relationship-building across congregations, mid councils and communities.

QUESTIONS/CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance with the application process, eligibility questions or submission requirements, please contact:

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Presbyterian Life & Witness
Serving God's Mission in the World