



## GRANTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

### PURPOSE AND HISTORY

- ◆ Launched in 1999 and re-established in 2008, the Grants and Financial Assistance Ministry fulfills the third element of the Foundation's charter: "To aid and give financial assistance to religious, charitable and educational causes and institutions of the United Methodist Church, particularly those of the New England Annual Conference."
- ◆ Funded by the Foundation's Endowment for Grants and Financial Assistance and by support from the Foundation Board of Directors and Friends, the ministry is committed to modeling active and faithful stewardship by making grants and by building a strong endowment for the future.
- ◆ Funds are distributed to churches and agencies through 1) an annual application process and 2) a rapid-response process designed to accommodate requests for immediate support in time sensitive situations.
- ◆ The Foundation Board will determine the available funds for each year as they seek to balance the need to build the endowment base and to disburse as much of the grant funds as possible.

### MISSION

*To foster strategic initiatives that promote faithful personal and congregational stewardship.*

Churches are strategically positioned to teach and model values that strengthen financial stewardship and address human needs. Agencies responding to the needs of God's people are also appropriate partners for this ministry. The Ministry seeks to fund projects that:

- ◆ Create stewardship opportunities while also responding to direct human need
- ◆ Motivate growth in financial giving
- ◆ Increase participation in stewardship services, resources, or other related ministries and/or training events
- ◆ Affirm positive projects, investments or accomplishments

The **Grants & Financial Assistance Committee** evaluates and awards funds to programs that support its mission through projects that demonstrate the following characteristics.

- ◆ **ALIGNMENT** - Understand and seek to partner with the priorities of the Grants and Financial Assistance Ministry.
- ◆ **SYSTEMIC IMPACT** - Enable comprehensive change and promote the growth of ministry, stewardship and/or service.
- ◆ **CATALYST/LEVERAGE** - Stimulate growth, build capacity, foster creative and holistic thinking and/or reach beyond the walls of the church or agency to build strategic partnerships.
- ◆ **SUSTAINABILITY** - Understand the need to fund today's ministry and to build resources for the future such as planned gifts and endowments. Willingness to explore multiple funding methods including matching funds, challenge grants, scholarships, and other direct grants.

### **PROJECT EXAMPLES**

- Activities that address direct human need and strengthen sustainability
- Stewardship resource programs for congregations including personal finance training and giving campaigns
- Training events equipping leaders to train others locally on stewardship or development
- New stewardship programs or missions
- Projects that support development of new and existing resources

### **Grant Size and Renewal Guidelines**

Grants will range between \$500 and \$5,000. Rapid Response grants are one time only and non-renewable. For Annual grants, a maximum of two years of consecutive funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Programs can reapply (12) twelve months after the end of funding. Organizations are encouraged to secure additional funding.

#### **A. Rapid Response Grants**

- ◆ Rapid Response decisions will be received in 4-6 weeks after proposal submission.

#### **B. Annual Grants**

- ◆ Annual Grant Application forms are available on the United Methodist Foundation of New England's website or from the Foundation office. Completed applications are due by 5pm on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Applicants are encouraged to submit completed applications electronically or by mail. Applicants are encouraged to call in advance for feedback on their proposed project.
- ◆ During application evaluation, United Methodist Foundation of New England staff or Grants and Financial Assistance Committee members may request further information or visit program sites.
- ◆ Grant selections are made in December with disbursement by the end of the year. Unsuccessful applications will be also notified in December.

**For more information contact**

**The United Methodist Foundation of New England**

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