

Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ Division of Wider Church Ministries Grant Application

NEA Bylaws section 8.7: The Division on Wider Church Ministries encourages and equips Local Churches for ministries beyond their local congregations by providing resources and training related to the relationship of the Local Church to the wider Church, including mission, evangelism, social justice, global partnerships, scholarships for wider church opportunities, and interpretation of Our Church's Wider Mission support.

The Division of Wider Church Ministries (DWCM) welcomes churches served by the Northeast Association to apply for grants to help develop, strengthen, and expand the health and ministries of our churches. Funds are available in three categories: Program and Event Funding, New Directions in Mission, and Discernment and Assessment Tools. Grants are awarded as needed, and as funds are available, with a maximum request of \$1000.

Grants are available in three categories

(1) Program and event funding

In the past DWCM has supported events such as

- a workshop on broadening the use of music in churches so that they might develop their worship life and connect with those outside of the church;
- a conference-wide workshop on evangelism and outreach;
- a Mission House program at Lakeland College connecting the members of the association with overseas mission;
- educational and informative events and programs to develop connections between association churches, and strengthen the connection of the local church to the wider church

(2) New directions in mission

These funds are for helping association churches live out our call to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. For example, a local congregation may be planning a service/mission trip and invites others from the association to partner with them and seeks funding to help make this possible.

(3) Discernment & Assessment Tools

These funds are intended to help congregations within the association recognize and evaluate where they are at with relationship to social justice, mission, evangelism, and global partnerships, and assess their ability to move ahead, strengthening existing ministries, and developing new ministries.

Grant Application Criteria – Program and Event Funding

- Invitations to events must be extended to the churches and members of the entire Northeast Association
- It is expected that events will be held within the geographical area of the association; if the event is to be held outside the association's boundaries, additional documentation will need to be submitted about why the association should fund the event and how members of the association will be invited to attend the event.

Grant Application Criteria – New Directions In Mission

- These are intended for collaborative mission programs, connecting your congregation to other UCC congregations within the association.
- If this is an ecumenical or inter-faith collaborative mission, additional documentation will need to be submitted about how this mission will enhance the ministries of all the congregations of the association.

Grant Application Criteria – Discernment & Assessment Tools

- Grants in this category may include: resource persons, facilitators to cover their costs, mileage, and other expenses; renewal and conflict resolution; discernment processes within the local congregation as they work towards a revitalization process.
- Preference will be given to congregations with limited financial resources

Description

1. Events & New Directions In Mission – please describe the initiative that funding is being sought for
 - a. Please specify if this is a one-time event or recurring (happening over several days (i.e. three Sundays in May) or multi-year (i.e. every July for three years). Please note that grants for multiple year events must be applied for every year and will be evaluated to assess reasonable progress is being made on stated goals.
 - b. How will and invitation to the initiative be extended to all the churches within the association (include means of advertising – website, direct mailing, email, etc.)?
 - c. Describe how the initiative will strengthen the joint ministry of the association churches, and the specific goals of the DWCM relating to mission, evangelism, social justice, global partnerships, and interpretation of Our Churches' Wider Mission.
 - d. What other congregations, organisations, or groups are participating in the initiative?
2. Discernment & Assessment Tools – please describe what funding is being sought for
 - a. Please describe how the tool, if funded, will enhance the ministry of the local congregation as it assesses its current situation, and discerns future ministry opportunities.
 - b. How will the tool, if funded, be used within the local church involve all of the members of the congregation, boards, groups, and committees?
 - c. How will the tool, if funded, enhance the ministries of the entire association?

Timeline for your Event, Program, or Mission

Please include a timeline for the initiative or tool, including specific registration dates.

Budget for your Event or Program

Please provide a detailed budget for the initiative or tool, including the total amount expected to be contributed from the local congregation, and the amount of funding requested from DWCM. Please include details about registration fees, honorariums for speakers, resource materials needed, travel expenses, advertising, etc. ***Please note that the maximum amount you may request from the DWCM is \$1000.***

Grant History

Please provide details of any previous grants awarded, within the past five years, to the local congregation from the DWCM.

Evaluation & Follow-Up

Describe how the success of the initiative or tool will be evaluated.

For events, will the participants be invited to provide feedback on the event?

Please note that, within six months of the event, it is expected that a one page narrative will be provided to DWCM that evaluates how stated goals were, or were not met, and any learning from the event, mission, or project.

Application deadlines

- Grants will be awarded as needed, and as funds are available.
- Applications must be received no later than 120 days before anticipated funding is needed.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply early in the calendar year as funds are awarded throughout the year and by the later months of the year, funds may have been exhausted.

Grant Application Process

- Grants received by the chair of the Division of Wider Church Ministries
- Grants reviewed by the committee at their next scheduled meeting (usually monthly)
- Questions for clarification may be asked and additional information may be requested.
- Awards will be made

Grants should be submitted by email to: dwcmchair@gmail.com

If a paper application is absolutely required please mail them to:

NEA Wider Church Ministries Committee
c/o Wisconsin Conference U.C.C.
4459 Gray Rd PO Box 435
DeForest, WI 53532-035

Questions? Contact dwcmchair@gmail.com or leave a message at the conference office (608-846-7880) for the DWCM chair