

# Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ Catalyst Grants for Church Development and Renewal

## Grant Instructions & Guidelines

Financial assistance through Catalyst is intended to support new approaches to church development and renewal and encourage vital and innovative ministries that transform lives. Areas of emphasis include:

- Inspiring innovative ministries,
- Collaborative practices,
- Cohort collegial support (mentoring, coaching, COP groups),
- Curating of resources and
- Networking clergy ideas and best practices.

Grants should also help advance a congregation's ministry in one or more of the following Catalyst focus areas:

- Community based ministries,
- Multi-cultural literacy,
- Justice work,
- Emerging new ministry/governance models,
- Leadership development and
- Spiritual formation.

Catalyst will accept requests in the Spring and Fall of each year. Applications received prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> will be considered by the Catalyst Team at the May meeting. Applications received by September 30<sup>th</sup> will be considered at the November meeting. Grants are awarded based on the merits of the program and availability of funds. Requests should typically be less than 50% of program costs.

The Catalyst team endeavors to be as generous as possible with the available funds. Typically grants are limited to a maximum of \$5,000. Applicants with programs that may need multi-year funding may reapply for up to 3 years, but amounts typically will decline each year as the local program generates support and sustainable funding, if intended as an ongoing program.

Evaluation criteria on which to base program success will be established for each grant. Future year funding, if needed, will be contingent on the evaluation criteria to measure success. If the evaluation criteria are not met, continued funding may be considered if program changes are proposed to address success. Recipients are asked to provide periodic updates on their program and are also expected to share what they learn through the project. This may take the form of a curriculum, study guide, how to manual or case study that the Catalyst team can then make available as a resource to other congregations so that together we may discover the way forward.

Please complete the following grant form and return electronically or by mail to The Wisconsin Conference UCC Office in care of Tisha Brown at [tbrown@wcucc.org](mailto:tbrown@wcucc.org) or by mail to 4459 Gray Road, DeForest, WI 53232.