

Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

Catalyst Grant Application

This application is for church congregations in the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. Prior to submitting your proposal online, prepare your answers to these questions. The application software does not save partial applications, meaning you cannot come back later to finish a proposal. It has to be done all at one time. Prior to beginning your application, be sure you can answer all these questions AND have a detailed project description (see item 17) AND a letter of support from your congregation's leadership team (see item 18) ready to be uploaded into the software.

Questions? Contact Mary Kuenning Gross at mgross@wcucc.org

Your Contact Information and Grant Request Amount

1. Name of Person Completing the Application
2. Your Role in the Congregation
3. Church Name
4. Church Mailing Address
5. Your Email address and Phone Number
6. County – Please note: While churches in all counties are eligible for a Catalyst Grant, the St. John's of Hartford Legacy Fund is making Catalyst funds available to churches in Washington County.
7. What kind of grant are you seeking?
 - a. **Catalyst Grants for Short-Term Initiatives:** Term: One Year Grants; Maximum Grant Available: \$5,000; Purpose: Catalyze ministry expansion, community-based partnerships and relationship building between local congregations and their communities. These requests will be reviewed by the Catalyst Team twice a year. (Due dates: September 30 and March 31) _____
 - b. **Catalyst Grants for Community Conversations:** Term: short-term projects (one year or less) Maximum grant amount: \$1,500 with the expectation that the local community or congregation match funds granted. Purpose: Catalyze conversations about sensitive topics in which the primary focus is learning from one another and from invited guests through discussion groups, book studies, speaker series, etcetera. These requests will be reviewed by the Catalyst Team four times per year (Due dates: December 31, March 31, June 30, and September 30)_____
8. How much money are you requesting for your project?

Tell US About Your Project

9. Summarize the innovative project's goal or purpose in 20 words or less. What is the vision?
10. How many people are on your planning and implementation team for this project?

11. Catalyst has a strong preference for projects that represent partnerships between local congregations and their wider communities. Tell us about your project partners – who is involved in or supporting this project from the wider community?
12. How does this project speak to these stated priorities for project funding that the Catalyst Team has identified?
 - Building upon or initiating partnership efforts between congregations and their communities
 - Responding to the Wisconsin Conference’s justice initiatives (Immigration, Racial Justice and Climate Change)
 - Empowering leaders to lead within congregations, communities and the conference
13. The Catalyst Team is open to funding a range of projects at a variety of levels. What percentage of this project will be funded by this Catalyst Grant and what percentage will be funded by the local church?
14. What other sources for project support are you seeking? (i.e., additional grants, in-kind contributions, volunteer labor, etc.)
15. For ongoing projects or projects that will extend past one year regardless of start date: Assuming your project succeeds in its initial development phase, describe your plan for sustainable funding beyond the initial Catalyst grant funds (skip if your project will not extend past one year).
16. Are you interested in assistance with developing a financial sustainability plan for this project with Andrew Warner, Director of Development for the Wisconsin Conference?

Upload the two project documents – the detailed description and the letter from your congregation.

17. Upload a description of your congregation’s project (no more than two pages please). In your narrative, be sure to help us understand the following:
 - What is the project?
 - What is the project timeline?
 - How is the project innovative or experimental in your context?
 - What risks are you taking?
 - What are the planned expenses?
 - What is the anticipated impact of the project? Consider things like:
 - What will change (be stronger, better, kinder, or more just) in your congregation or community?
 - What % of your congregation or community do you hope will be touched by this effort?
 - What stories would you like to be told when this project is over?
 - What are the obstacles you anticipate and how will you navigate them?

18. Upload a letter of support from your congregation's or organization's leadership team here.

Thank you, your grant application has been submitted and will receive careful consideration. Grant requests received by March 31 will be reviewed and responded to in early May. Grant requests received by September 30 will be reviewed and responded to in early November. These dates will vary for Community Conversations which will be decided on four occasions as listed above.