

WCUCC Catalyst Team

Sparking Innovative and Vital Ministries

Statement of Purpose and Practice

CATALYST TEAM PURPOSE

The prophet Isaiah promises:

*Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.
(Isaiah 58:12)*

Inspired by these words and believing ourselves called to join with God in repairing breaches and restoring streets to live in, the Catalyst Team of the Wisconsin Conference:

- Resources vital and innovative ministries that creatively and vibrantly live out the values of Jesus in this time and place
- Encourages congregations and individuals to broaden the focus of their mission toward building partnerships in their community to serve the common good
- Supports congregations and individuals in their efforts to make a greater impact on their members and their wider communities
- Connects congregations and individuals engaged in vibrant ministries with one another for idea sharing and inspiration

To Accomplish this Purpose The Catalyst Team or others within the conference structure with whom we partner will:¹

1. Collaborate with Wisconsin Conference staff and the Supportive Ministries Team to resource congregations, individuals and pastors in best practices for church vitality and through innovative and community-based ministry ideas;
2. Provide a range of grants to congregations and individuals to help initiate and support innovative ministries;

¹ These statements have been adapted from the Wisconsin Conference by-laws and constitution and outline the scope of work for the Catalyst Team as of June 2020.

3. In collaboration with Wisconsin Conference staff, provide short-term needs where the funding will enable the congregation to move through crisis and back toward vitality;
4. Consult with conference staff and the Supportive Ministries Team to identify opportunities and needs around congregational vitality and growth and to strategically deploy resources;
5. Work with the Supportive Ministries Team to provide an umbrella for congregational vitality and leadership development programs such as Readiness 360, Five Practices, Coaching or others that may arise in the future;
6. In collaboration with or support of the Supportive Ministries Group and Wisconsin Conference staff, ensure that workshops, retreats or other events take place on a regular basis to support, nurture or encourage congregational vitality, new church development and leadership development throughout the conference.

In Summary: Catalyst's primary focus is to entertain grant proposals that advance innovative ministries and that provide urgent short-term support in order to bridge congregations through crisis back to vitality. The scope of our work is based on the funding available from the budget set forth by the Board of Directors and approved by the Conference. The Catalyst Team will establish a budget and goals each year, evaluate them and report back to the Board.

Catalyst Team Composition: The Catalyst Team shall consist of ten persons: one from each Association, and four at large, plus a Board member and member of the Conference Staff (ex officio). The Committee shall also be balanced between lay people and clergy. Each person is appointed for a two-year term and may serve no more than three consecutive terms.

Grant and Programmatic Focus Areas

Our six focus areas include:

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