

The Ministry Initiatives Program

A Program of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley administered by the
Commission for Congregational Life (CCL)
Approved by Presbytery February 20, 2018

Introduction: The Presbytery Church Development Fund was established in 2013. A Task Team was appointed to develop a policy for the use of these funds. Contingent on the approval of the policy for the Church Development Fund, this Ministry Initiative Program is proposed to be supported from the Church Development Fund.

Purpose: The primary purpose of the Ministries Initiative Program is to support development and initial implementation of imaginative efforts in the domain of church development and redevelopment in order to fulfill the Mission and Vision of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

Program Assumptions: As part of defining this purpose for the Ministry Initiatives Program, the following assumptions are made:

1. Grants are generally intended for new initiatives, redevelopment of congregations or missions, or restart situations. Attainable and measurable benchmarks will be included in all proposals.
2. Funds are not ordinarily available for general maintenance and upkeep on buildings, or the operation of existing programs of the congregation. Exceptions may be considered if redevelopment includes maintenance needed to support uses described in item 1.
3. While administered by CCL, each Commission, and the Presbytery, may apply for funds for projects that meet the criteria. Each will receive equal consideration under these guidelines.
4. In instances where a congregation has petitioned CCL to engage in ending their ministry, funds may be available to assist with a closing celebration.
5. Cooperative efforts among the congregations of the Presbytery will be encouraged, with grants in cases where these congregations may meet the criteria in assumption item 1.
6. CCL will establish a panel to oversee grant requests, herein named the Ministry Initiatives Board (MIB). The MIB will consist of one (1) active member from each commission, the active Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, and one (1) presbytery staff person. The Vice Moderator will serve as the MIB moderator and the staff person will serve in an advisory and non-voting capacity.
7. The MIB will set the timing, criteria, and process for receiving and evaluating grants. The MIB will be asked to make final determination for funding requests. Approved grants will be submitted to CCL for payment using the appropriate presbytery forms.

8. While requests may come from individual congregations to the various commissions, it will be the responsibility of each commission to determine eligibility, evaluate, and present recommended applications to the Ministry Initiatives Board. ***Requests to the Ministry Initiatives Board must come through, and be supported by, one of the commissions or the Presbytery.***
9. All granted requests will be accompanied by anticipated outcomes and the requesting commission will report those outcomes to CCL.
10. Grants may be considered for additional program years, up to two (2), in instances when anticipated outcomes may require more long-term planning and support. However, the requesting and supporting commission must provide all required outcome reporting to CCL.

Funding Assumptions:

- Initially, and for a projected period of five (5) years, an annual amount of \$150,000.00 will be included in the budget of CCL and named the Ministry Initiatives Program. Even though \$150,000.00 is allocated per year, there is no assumption that the entire annual amount will be spent in any given year if the presented and approved applications don't warrant the expenditure. The unexpended balance would be returned to the Church Development Fund for future use.
- This program will be evaluated by CPO and CCL in a period of no more four (4) years. Initial funding assumptions by CPO determined that funds are available for five (5) years at this funding level. Program assumptions may be evaluated for appropriateness by CCL as needed, or at least annually.
- If, at any time, CPO determines an adjustment is necessary to preserve the stability of the funding source(s), new allocations may be reduced or suspended.
- Should there be an unexpected opportunity consistent with the purpose of the program, the Presbytery, through a request to CPO, may approve spending more than the \$150,000 yearly limit.