

New Life Fund Grant Distribution Criteria and Procedures

Presbytery of New Covenant

Background

Upon the dissolution of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Beaumont, the Presbytery of New Covenant received a gift of \$50,000 to award to congregations intent on turning around their decline in membership. General Council authorized the Evangelism/Renewal committee to develop a strategy for disbursal of the money.

Guided by the missional shifts described in Reggie McNeal's book, *Missional Renaissance*, the committee has set the following criteria to distribute **one to five grants of no less than \$10,000 and no more than \$50,000.**

Criteria (see page 2 for a more in-depth description of the missional shifts)

- Projects must help move a congregation from a primarily internal to an external focus and must engage the community.
- Projects must help move a congregation from program development to spiritual development.
- Projects must help move a congregation from merely member recruitment to the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Eligibility

- Congregational membership must be plateaued or declining.
- Congregation must be a member of Presbytery of New Covenant.

Procedure

Grant applications should be **submitted before April 18, 2011.** The Evangelism and Renewal committee will review all applications and announce grant recipients on or before the stated presbytery meeting on June 11, 2011. Consultation and ongoing support from the Evangelism and Renewal committee will be available to all recipients. An evaluation of the project, including results and learnings, will be expected.

Shift #1: Internal focus to an external focus

The shift is from the church at the center to the Kingdom of God at the center. Ask yourself if this particular ministry will “bless the world.” Will this ministry, as it is lived out, reveal God’s heart for the world? Is it bigger than the church in your place? In this shift, the church is no longer seeing the ministry as a way to attract new members, but rather as a way to point back to the church’s mission in the world. The mission is beyond the individual church.

Shift #2: Program development to People development

This mission is beyond well-conceived programs. The church is not looking for another well received program. The mission should attract people in the church and also beyond the church. “We should feed the hungry people; but when their stomachs are full, we should also teach them or mentor them or find them work, whatever we can do to elevate their capacity to provide for themselves.” The ministry should move the church from a participation mindset to a mindset that encourages spiritual maturation. As we examine the ideas submitted we hope to find ministries that move to the development of individuals and their lives. Growth through service!

Shift #3: Church-Based to Kingdom-Based Leadership

The shift here would be from the old model of the church which is institutional, maintenance-oriented, positional, pastoral, church-focused and highly controlled to Kingdom-oriented leadership where words such as organic, disruptive, personal, prophetic, kingdom-focused, empowering can be used. Those who participate in this ministry will, in all likelihood, have a focus on the kingdom and how to draw individuals into a ministry. This shift no longer looks at the leadership of the church as directors, but rather producers. Training is to move the individuals out!

New Life Fund Grant Application

Presbytery of New Covenant

Name of Church: _____

Address of Church: _____

Name of Principal Contact: _____

Telephone of Principal Contact: _____

Email of Principal Contact: _____

Has the Church received funding from the Presbytery of New Covenant in the past three years? ____

If so, what was the nature and amount of the funding? _____

How much money are you requesting? _____

Please answer the following on another sheet of paper:

1. Please give a general description of the project or projects including how the vision for the project was conceived, how it has been received, and how it will be implemented.
2. How does the project/projects meet the grant criteria? (*engage community, spiritual development, growth of the kingdom of God*)
3. What results do you expect from this project? How and when do you expect to report the results and evaluation of the project to the presbytery?
4. Please provide a detailed projected budget for the project including how much money the congregation will be contributing as well as other sources of funding.

Has the session approved this project application? _____

Date of session approval: _____

Signature of Clerk of Session: _____

Signature of Moderator: _____

Please mail or email this application to Wendy Bailey by April 18, 2011, at the address below:

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