

**POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GIFT
TO THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT
FROM THE ESTATE OF LYNN JOHNSON**

PREAMBLE

Generosity is a signal characteristic of a Christian disciple and is an expression of the Holy Spirit in all of us. The generosity of the Rev. Lynn Johnson, a former Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant, has initiated a fund that can enhance expression of that Spirit of sharing for generations to come. This fund is dedicated to “be used for social justice issues, particularly for issues concerning equality and inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation.”

THE BODY TO REVIEW GRANT APPLICATIONS

I. Social Justice Grant Committee

- A. A committee made up of three to five members, approved by General Council, will constitute the body that makes recommendations to General Council for the approval of grant applications (based upon criteria set forth in this document), handles distribution of funds from the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grant fund, handles the distribution of funds, and oversees the system for stewardship of grant applicant results, as set out in this document. These members shall be appointed by General Council, their terms shall be three years and they shall be organized into three classes with staggered terms. The Moderator-Elect of the Presbytery (*i.e.* the Chair of General Council) shall serve as a member of the Committee.

- B. This committee, known as the Social Justice Grant Committee (SJGC), shall be composed of members with various backgrounds. The committee shall always include at least one lay person and one minister of the word and sacrament as members. The committee membership should reflect diversity as to urban/rural, male/female, small church/large church and racial/ethnic minorities.

GUIDELINES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

II. Grant Guidelines

- A. Guidelines for grant applications include:
 - a. Proposals that provide education for a church or group (as described in Section III, Grant Applications) to enhance knowledge of a particular social justice or inclusion issue intended to lead said group to take action to improve the status of those who are affected by adverse social conditions and/or lack of inclusion.
 - b. Proposals intended to create an action that will bring justice to an issue of social injustice and/or lack of inclusion of a particular group.

- c. Proposals that will further the cause of an organization that is already known to work for social justice and/or inclusion of previously excluded groups.
 - d. Other proposals that the SJGC deem meet the intents and purposes of the donor of this restricted major gift.
- B. All grant applications that meet the general purposes described by the terms of the restricted major gift that established this fund will be considered; however, those applications that address the more specific purpose of, “inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation,” as included in the donor’s gift description, will be given top priority.

III. Grant Applications

- A. The following groups may apply for the grant:
- 1) Any church in the Presbytery of New Covenant with the approval of the Session
 - 2) Organizations with partnerships with churches in the Presbytery of New Covenant
 - 3) Committees of the Presbytery of New Covenant
 - 4) Organizations with covenants with the Presbytery of New Covenant
- B. In the future consideration may be given to other groups within the Synod, with priority going to those within the Presbytery.
- C. Grant applications shall be made using the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grant Application Form, as approved by the General Council.

IV. Grant Funding

- A. There is no requirement that all available annual proceeds from the Gift be distributed in grants. Any such available funds not used for grants will accrue for future granting.
- B. Grants may be awarded for amounts between \$500 and \$2000 with a maximum of \$6,000 being awarded annually. There is a possibility of three to twelve grants being awarded annually.

V. Operations

- A. At the start of each calendar year, the SJGC shall make the grant guidelines known to every church session and committee of the Presbytery of New Covenant and encourage them to submit grant applications for activities related to the purposes of this grant and for which they want financial support.

- B. Grant applications for a given funding year (see D below) should be submitted between January 1 and March 31 of the calendar year in which such funding year begins. The first year grant applications will be accepted between March 15 and May 31, 2009.
- C. The SJGC will examine all the applications and recommend to General Council funding those applications that best meet the criteria and, in total, are within the gift funds available for distribution.
- D. The funding year for SJGC shall begin on July 1 of a calendar year and run through June 30 of the next succeeding calendar year.
- E. The SJGC shall establish the means to monitor grantee progress and results. In the case of multi-year grants, the monitoring program shall be established at the time the grant is made. Each grantee will be required to submit a final report detailing how the grant advanced and supported the purpose of each grant.
- F. The SJGC shall maintain files and data on grant performance, results, and lessons learned. The SJGC shall generate a report on results for the prior year's granting and submit that report to General Council each September 1 following the June 30 conclusion of the grant year.