

## **TYPES OF MISSION GRANTS**

**Reaching Out** – Funds are available for new or ongoing ministries that help alleviate human need and suffering and support a congregation's efforts to strengthen its relationships and visibility through service to its larger community. Particularly: dismantling racism, eradicating poverty or hunger, empowering peace, supporting worker or environmental justice, strengthening children, youth, families and persons who are differently abled. Preference will be given to programs that are creative, non-traditional and involve hands-on opportunities for service. **Maximum request \$1,500**

**Strengthening the Church** – Funds are available to support church growth and development within the Penn West Conference. Some examples of this could be leadership development, youth development, and church growth initiatives. Preference will be given to new and innovative ideas for church growth and development. **Maximum request \$1,500**

**Operational Support** – Operational awards support local church in purchasing, updating, maintaining, replacing, or repairing facility and equipment, or any worthwhile ministry project or program that helps the congregation provide continuity of mission to its community. Special consideration will be given to congregations striving towards vitality, congregational growth and development. **Maximum request \$1,000**

## **ADDITIONALLY!**



### **Caring for Churches** **Caring for Clergy** –

We are excited about the progress that is being

made in the Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy campaign of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ! We hope to raise \$500,000.00, with \$450,000.00 being directed toward our Mission Grants program and \$50,000.00 being directed toward the Pension Boards (United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance) Generations of Service Campaign. The Generations of Service campaign helps with financial assistance to current and future retirees, development of leadership programs, and improvements toward the financial wellness of those in ministry.

The Penn West Conference Mission Grants program provides grants to local churches for operational expenses, programs that reach out to help meet community needs, and initiatives that strengthen churches. We anticipate and expect that this program will also help with new church starts and church growth initiatives in our Conference's life. **So far, we have raised over \$401,813.83 in pledges and gifts toward the campaign!**

If you are able and willing, please be in touch with our Conference Minister ([david@pennwest.org](mailto:david@pennwest.org)) to talk about a gift that will have real, transformative impact. Information about the campaign may be found on the homepage of our website at [www.pennwest.org](http://www.pennwest.org). Thank you for your generous support of Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy!

## **A MISSION GRANT IS:**

A financial award given by the Penn West Conference to (insert your church's name here) for one of the following categories:

- **Reaching Out**
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- **Strengthening the Church**
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- **Operational Support**



Grants are financial gifts that do not have to be paid back, provided you have used the funds properly and completed the proper reports in the time frame.

Our Mission Grants program is currently funded by the Kermit Thomas bequest, the Corman Fund, and gifts to Neighbors in Need and Strengthen the Church.

And, our grants are now being funded by Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy Campaign.

Your gifts to Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission also helps to fund the infrastructure that allows our Mission Grants program to take place.

**LOOK INSIDE FOR**  
**SOME PREVIOUS**  
**AWARDS!**

The Mission Grants Program of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ continues to make an amazing difference in the lives of our churches. **In 2022, we gave away \$44,111.00 worth of grants** to our churches to meet operational needs, to reach out in our communities, and to strengthen our churches.

**Here are a few of the grants that were awarded in 2022!**

### **"Kitchen Serving Counter"**

St. Paul's UCC in Erie needed a safe and appropriate surface, as a serving counter for meals which are served to the homeless as well as to our members....

With this grant, we have also raised enough money to complete the project.



Many groups who come to our church on Sundays to prepare and serve a meal to the homeless will now benefit from a safer surface to work on."



### **"Mission Trip to Guatemala"**



St. Paul's Community Church in Chicora "had a group of 11 travel to Guatemala on a mission trip on July 11 – July 18, 2023.

"We visited with and worked with missionaries there at a Christian school, a feeding center for children, an orphanage, and worshiped with them at their Sunday church service.... We were able to share God's love and care for many children by providing crafts, toothpaste and toothbrushes, food, soccer balls and just lots of fun."



### **"Youth Together: Bonding Through Service and Faith Formation"**

The Abbey Reformed UCC received a grant to support their youth. "These funds assisted youth in attending a Junior High Retreat (January, 2023); as well as for youth and their family members to attend Youth Works Mission in Louisville KY in the summer of 2023. Thank you!



**Please be in prayer about this and consider applying for a Mission Grant for Your Church!**