

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, you, 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 now have \$417,310 in actual gifts to the campaign. Ninety percent of these gifts are being directed toward our Mission Grants programs and ten percent are being directed toward the Pension Board (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. If you are able and willing, please be in touch with our Conference Minister (david@pennwest.org) to talk about a gift that will have real, trans-formative impact. Information about the campaign may be found on the homepage of our website at www.pennwest.org. Thank you for your generous support !!

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**
- **Strengthening the Church**
- **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 2023, we gave away \$ \$42,236 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 2024.

Messy Church

St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Somerset received a \$1,500.00 Strengthen the Church Grant for their Messy Church project. This innovative program helps to enhance the children's ministry that St. Paul's is doing. Here is a photo of their program.



Blessing Boxes!

Trinity United Church of Christ in Greensburg received a \$1,000.00 Reaching Out Grant for their Blessing Box. This box helps to provide food and other supplies to minister to those in need in the greater Greensburg community.

NEW CHURCH SIGNAGE!

Community United Church in Erie received a \$1,000.00 Operational Grant to upgrade their church signage. Their new sign is a message of welcome to the Erie community and beyond. Here is a photo of their sign.



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