

EPA UMC – Urban Commission/Congregational Development Team Wholeness Center Grants Supporting New and Expanded Ministry Centers in EPA



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

EPA Wholeness Center Grants

The Urban Commission & The Congregational Development Team (CDT), are co-sponsoring “Wholeness Center Grants” to support new and expanded ministry centers serving with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities in EPA. EPA is committed to addressing systemic racism and economic inequity by the development of ministry centers. **All United Methodist Churches within the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are eligible to apply.** Alliances and Mission Links within the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are also welcome to apply.

What is A Wholeness Center?

Wholeness Centers are located within communities and work with local residents to develop long-term sustainable transformation. Wholeness Centers focus on locally based missions that intentionally connect, engage, and partner with their communities for sustainable transformation. Wholeness Centers include Persons of Color and community leaders and representatives in the process of formation to assess community needs and design plans to strengthen and resource identified needs. Wholeness Centers foster relationships with local businesses and organizations in order to operate in an asset-based community development model.

EPA UMC Wholeness Centers:

- Create partnerships with community organizations, schools, churches, community leaders, businesses, and elected officials.
- Connect and increase community resources.
- Work with under-served populations and BIPOC communities.
- Address specific needs to undergird long term change

A Wholeness Center collaborates with communities to build on assets to address educational, social, and economic challenges. Wholeness Centers connect United Methodists with community residents, school, non-profit organizations, businesses, town governments, and other faith groups to feed the hungry, provide high quality childcare and educational enrichment for students, build affordable housing, assist the homeless and offer job training.

See the FAQ for further information: [Wholeness Centers FAQ](#)

The Urban Commission and CDT will consider grant applications in the Spring and in the Fall. Grants will be offered twice a year – **Applications must be submitted to the District Superintendent by May 1 and Nov. 1 for review and approval. Completed applications, with DS approval, are then due to the conference office May 15 and November 15.**

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Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Grants will be for up to \$10,000 for the first year, with potential for the 2nd and 3rd year of funding. **Congregations are eligible to apply for additional funding once every 12 months. Alliances and mission links are eligible to apply for funding once every 12 months.** In order to receive additional funding, ministry evaluations must show responsible use of funds, accomplishment or significant progress toward goals, and alignment with EPA Conference Mission. If a grant is not awarded, congregations are encouraged to strengthen the application and re-apply in future cycles.

Please keep in mind that grant funds may not be used for any existing building expenses, maintenance, or repairs, including those caused by natural calamities.

Applications must include:

Cover Page and D.S. Signature
Part A: Short Description
Part B: Proposed Budget
Part C: Details

Please answer as completely as possible.

You may write or type within the document or attach pages as necessary.

Applications must be submitted to the District Superintendent by May 1 and Nov. 1 for review and approval. Completed applications, with DS approval, are then due to the Director of Connectional Ministries by May 15 and November 15. Incomplete applications will not be accepted:

**Rev. Dawn Taylor Storm, Director of Connectional Ministries
dtaylorstorm@epaumc.church
EPA Conference UMC
PO Box 820
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820**

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Grant Application

Church:	District:
Address:	Phone: () -
Full Name of Contact Person:	Title/Position:
Organization Email:	Applicant Email:
Project Name:	Amount of Request: \$
Expected Start Date:	Duration of Project:

Application submitted by:

_____ () - _____
Printed Name Title Phone

_____ Date

Pastor's Signature: _____ Date

Submission approved by: _____ Date
Signature of District Superintendent

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Part A:

Please attach a **brief one-page description** of the proposed ministry including:

- Name of congregation(s) sponsoring the Initiative
- Community problem or need to be addressed
- Goals for addressing need. Who will be served? What will be accomplished by the ministry center?
- Activities of the ministry and how they will address goals

Part A is a public summary of your proposed ministry and will be used by the Urban Commission, CDT, Conference Communications, etc. for publicity purposes.

Part B: Budget

Please fill out the budget below, showing how you will use the monies from the grant.

PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET			
Income Sources:	Amount	Expenses:	Amount
Urban Commission/CDT Grant			
Other -			
Total:		Total:	

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Part C:

Please answer the following questions in more detail.

1. What is your ministry?

What is the specific community problem or need?

Is this a new ministry, or expanding an existing ministry?

How will this grant create opportunities to be in ministry in new ways
& serve more effectively?

2. What are your specific ministry goals?

What will you do?

Who, and how many people, will you be serving?

What is your timeline for implementing the ministry and achieving goals?

You may attach a separate sheet if this formatting is not convenient, but please address all the details.

Goals:	Activity:	Who, How Many:	When:

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3. Leadership and Evaluation:

Who is leading this ministry? What qualifications do these leaders have?

Who will be evaluating your ministry results and reporting back to the Urban Commission and CDT? Please list a person other than applicant for evaluating and reporting:

4. Description of community.

What is the geographic, socioeconomic, cultural, and faith context for your ministry?

What community resources have you identified?
How will the ministry engage community strengths?

5. Collaboration:

What community/civic partnerships are part of your proposed ministry?
(i.e., YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Interfaith, Non-Profit Entity, Local Government, Schools, Health ...)

What congregational strengths do you bring to this ministry?

List collaborative partnerships you hope to build in the coming year:

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6. How is this Initiative in alignment with the EPA Conference Mission of:

- a. creating disciples
- b. celebrating diversity
- c. connecting communities
- d. committing to love and justice

**7. Is your church currently in EPA Pathways? ____ Yes ____ No
If yes, what Pathway are you engaged in?**

8. Sustainability:

What are your plans for continuing this initiative and sustaining this ministry after the initial grant? Please provide details (church funds, partnerships, fundraising, other grant sources, etc.)