The Urban Commission of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will award grants to assist in funding **Urban Alliances or Urban Church Initiatives.**

**United Methodist churches of the Eastern PA Conference, located in the following urban centers, are invited and encouraged to apply:**

**Allentown**

**Bethlehem**

**Chester**

**Coatesville**

**Lancaster**

**Lebanon**

**Norristown**

**Pottstown**

**Reading**

**Philadelphia and Philadelphia area**

The Urban Commission hopes to offer grants twice a year – in Spring and Fall. Alliances and Initiatives who receive funding **are eligible to apply for additional funding once every 12 months** (not in the cycle in between). 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.

Anytime a grant is not awarded, Alliances and Initiatives are encouraged to strengthen the application and re-apply in future cycles.

Please keep in mind that grant funds may not be used to pay salaries or for any existing building expenses, maintenance or repairs, including those caused by natural calamities. ***Grant funds may be used for equipment and training – for example camera, audio, streaming equipment and training for upgrading virtual worship and communication infrastructure.***

**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 is possible.

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

**Applications should be sent to:**

 **Rev. Dawn Taylor Storm, Director of Connectional Ministries**

**dtaylorstorm@epaumc.org**

 **EPA Conference UMC**

 **PO Box 820**

 **Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820**

**Application Deadline: November 23, 2020**

Awards will be announced by: January 6, 2021

**Applicants must choose whether to apply as an Urban Alliance or Urban Church Initiative. Please indicate how you are applying below.**

**Urban Alliances** are formed by two or more congregations working together in collaborative ministries, preferably with community and civic partners. The Urban Ministries Coordinator will assist in the formation of Alliances and the administration of funding. Upon their formation, Alliances will appoint a representative and become members of the Urban Commission. This representative may be clergy or a lay person. Urban Alliances, because they involve multiple partners, may apply for funding up to $6,000.

**Urban Church Initiatives** are to support new or expanding ministries within a single urban congregation. Local Churches Initiatives may apply for funding up to $2,500.

**Please choose: \_\_\_ Urban Alliance \_\_\_ Urban Church Initiative**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organization:**  | **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:**

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Printed Name Title Phone

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Signature Date

**Submission approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of District Superintendent Date

D.S. Comments:

**Part A:**

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

* Name of church sponsoring the Initiative or churches forming the Alliance
* Community problem or need to be addressed
* Goals for addressing need. Who will be served? What will be accomplished?
* 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, 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 Grant |       |       |       |
| Other -       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |
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| **Total:** |       | **Total:** |       |

**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 opportunity to do ministry in a new way, to serve more people,

or to serve more effectively?

1. **What are your specific ministry goals?**

What will you do?

Who, and how many, 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 detail.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goals:  | Activity: | Who, How Many: | When: |
|       |       |       |       |
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1. **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 Conference?

1. **Description of community.**

What is the geographic, socioeconomic, cultural, and faith context for your ministry? Please provide specific and relevant detail and data.

What community resources have you identified?

How will the ministry will engage community strengths?

1. **Collaboration:**

The **Urban Alliance** grant is intended for collaborative ministries between United

Methodist congregations and community partners. The **Urban Initiative** grant also

encourages, but does not require, collaboration with community partners.

**For Urban Alliances:**

Who are the UM congregations involved?

What is your history as an alliance already?

What community/civic partnerships are part of your proposed ministry?

(i.e. YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Interfaith, Non-Profit Entity, Local Government)

**For Urban Church Initiatives:**

What congregational strengths do you bring to this ministry?

List any collaborative partnerships:

1. **How is this Alliance / Initiative in alignment with the EPA Conference Mission of:**
	1. creating disciples
	2. celebrating diversity
	3. connecting communities
	4. committing to love and justice
2. **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.)