

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

BLESSING GRANTS



Background and Application Packet

Deadline April 1, 2018

BLESSING GRANTS - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Peace River Presbytery will establish a permanent invested corpus, the earnings from which will be given as grants to congregations and presbytery entities who propose to:

Support church development, redevelopment, and/or transformation:

- By initiating, altering or expanding outreach ministries in their local communities or;
- By creating PCUSA new church developments or worshipping communities.

This fund will be replenished using earnings from the invested corpus and any gifts designated for this purpose from organizations or individuals.

BACKGROUND

This fund is meant to support The Mission/Vision of Peace River Presbytery which is: "To affirm congregations, connect disciples in mission and to be the Body of Christ together;" and The Values of Peace River Presbytery: "To be a Relational, Missional, Learning Community Centered in Christ."

A BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL, CONFESSIONAL RATIONALE

There are two rudimentary Biblical principles that guide our use of money. Both come from Jesus although they are implicit throughout Scripture. The first is that earthly wealth as we know it, is essentially illusory and passing if not used for purposes of the kingdom. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth" Jesus tells us, 'where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.' (Matthew 6:19) We are never to accumulate wealth for wealth's sake.

The second is that believers are encouraged to take whatever worldly wealth they do have and understand it as something with which they are entrusted. While wealth is essentially transitory, it is also something given to us from God to wisely invest, multiply and ultimately glorify the same One who is the Giver of all good things. (James 1:17) Jesus' teachings in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) and the Parable of the Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1-3) empower us to do this.

As stated in the Confession of 1967, we know that "God instructs his church and equips it for mission. When carried on infidelity to the Scriptures and dependence upon the Holy Spirit, people hear the word of God and accept and follow Christ."

It is our earnest prayer that these Blessing Grants will accomplish the following objectives:

- To invite the members and congregations of Peace River to dream new dreams, imagine new ways, and begin new initiatives that lead to the development, redevelopment and renewal of congregational life, ministry and outreach. (Joel 2:28-29)
- To encourage innovative attempts to develop and expand hands-on ministries that serve the people of our local communities in Christ-like ways. (Ephesians 4)
- To encourage members and congregations to become more involved in the wholeness and well-being, (Shalom) of their communities. (Jeremiah 29: 7)
- To seek to make disciples across all economic, racial and ethnic boundaries. (Galatians 3:20)
- To foster innovation in PCUSA new church developments, worshipping communities and other evangelistic endeavors. (Acts 2:46-49)
- To encourage congregations and Presbytery entities to rethink their ministries for the 21 century. (Romans 12:1-2, Acts 9:31)

God is unceasingly active in the lives of people in our local communities. Consistent with our "go into the world" theology, (Matthew 28: 19) and "transform the world" mission, (Mark 12:29-31) we are called to be ever present in our communities. By doing this, the Spirit will breathe new life into our ministries and we will be a blessing to the world.

INFORMATION FOR BLESSING GRANTS REQUESTORS

GRANT APPLICATION SCHEDULE

Proposals may be submitted for evaluation and approval to the Presbytery Steering Committee twice annually, April 1 and October 1. Responses will be made within 90 days of the request deadline.

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

The Application form with the required Evaluation Questions is found on the Peace River Presbytery web site.

GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE

Grant money available will be posted on the website each year.

CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED IN AWARDING GRANTS

- Does the grant proposal start something completely new, alter or expand a current activity?
- Is the vision clear and the overall rationale compelling?
- Are the goals and objectives for this proposal well-articulated?
- Is the dollar amount requested well rationalized?
- Does the proposal demonstrate multiple sources of financial support and a plan to develop the project toward self-sustainability?
- Does the proposal have approval and support of the session, board or appropriate governing entity?
- Does the congregation or presbytery entity exhibit readiness and ability to accomplish its intentions? •Do the individual(s) or team(s) who will be championing this proposal demonstrate wholehearted ownership for the project?
- Does the development of this proposal show evidence of God's leading and guiding the proposers through discernment?
- Does the proposal contain evaluation criteria that measure the anticipated results?

Evaluation Questions (Presbytery requires the following questions to be answered):

- Were the proposal's markers of effectiveness realized?
Describe what went well.
- In what ways was the proposal ineffective?
- Were mid-course adjustments made?
If so, describe them and the results.
- What was the overall community reaction to the effort?
- What lessons can be shared that might benefit other congregations?

BLESSING GRANTS APPLICATION

PROJECT NAME: _____ Date _____

Requesting Organization _____

Contact person(s): _____

- Summary of the project (one paragraph) Amount requested: _____
- Which of the 6 Blessing Grant Objectives (see below) does this Project address? How? Include all that apply.
- What is the time-line for the project?
- What are the expected outcomes? How will you measure if the project accomplished its goals?
- Describe the contributions of the sponsoring church(es)/Presbytery entity(ies) to the project other than the grant: (money, time, talents, etc.). As part of this step please provide a proposed current income and expense budget for the project. How will this be funded in the future?
- How will this project build discipleship in your church(es)/Presbytery entity(ies)?
- How will this blessing grant enable your congregation's/Presbytery entity's effort to grow in being a community of faith, hope, love, and witness?
- How will this grant enable your congregation/Presbytery entity to grow in vitality and faithfulness and service?
- Who (individual(s) or team(s)) will be championing this project?

Blessing Grants Objectives	
1.	To invite the members and congregations of Peace River to dream new dreams, imagine new ways, and begin new initiatives that lead to the development, redevelopment and renewal of congregational life, ministry and outreach. (Joel 2:28-29)
2.	To encourage innovative attempts to develop and expand hands-on ministries that serve the people of our local communities in Christ-like ways. (Ephesians 4)
3.	To encourage members and congregations to become more involved in the wholeness and wellbeing, (Shalom) of their communities (Jeremiah 29:7)
4.	To seek to make disciples across all economic, racial and ethnic boundaries. (Galatians 3:20)
5.	To foster innovation in PCUSA new church developments, worshipping communities and other evangelistic endeavors. (Acts 2:46-49)
6.	To encourage congregations and Presbytery entities to rethink their ministries for the 21st century. (Romans 12:1-2, Acts 9:31)

