



Blessing Grant Application 2025

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, worshiping communities, and/or fresh expressions of faith.

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 assist and support congregations, connect disciples in mission and to be the Body of Christ together;" and the values of Peace River Presbytery: "To affirm a culture that nurtures joyful and caring relationships as we learn to do God's work together."

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 with fidelity 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, worshiping communities, fresh expressions of faith, 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

Proposals submitted for evaluation prior to August 5th will be reviewed and sent back to the church contact for edits and resubmission. All submissions and resubmissions will need to be sent to the Communications, Connection, and Community Committee by August 25, 2025. Applications can be emailed to melana@peaceriverpresbytery.org for distribution to the committee.

Please note that you are not eligible for a new grant if you have not completed and submitted your report on a previous Blessing Grant. A report outline is available on the website under "Grants and Loans." Please email your report to melana@peaceriverpresbytery.org.

Responses and grant awards will be notified around September 15, 2025.

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

The Application form is found on the Peace River Presbytery website. Here is the website link: <https://peaceriverpresbytery.org/grants-loans/>

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? (summary of project)
- Are the goals and objectives for this proposal clear?
- Is the requested dollar amount detailed in the budget?
- Does the proposal demonstrate multiple sources of financial support and in-kind support with a plan to develop the project toward self-sustainability after the grant is spent?
- Does the proposal include minutes from the session, board or appropriate governing entity approving this application?
- 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?

GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE

For the 2025 grant cycle, \$42,500 is available presbytery wide.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO APPLICATION

- Signed and dated Session minutes authorizing the submission of the grant application.
- A project budget detailing both project income and expenses. If the expense is over \$1,000, include the amount in the budget for the preferred bid.
- If possible, three written quotes for all expenditures over \$1,000.
- A project timeline.
- If you have received a Blessing Grant in the past three years, a copy of that project's final report.



Blessing Grant Application

2025

2025 APPLICATION

PROJECT NAME: _____

REQUESTING ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

- Description of the project (1 paragraph only).
- Describe how this project is inspired by God's leading and guiding.

AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____

BLESSING GRANT OBJECTIVES

Describe how your project addresses two or more of the Blessing Grants Objectives listed below. Attach an additional page for your responses.

1. How is this project inviting your congregation 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. Share how this is an innovative attempt for your congregation to develop and expand hands-on ministries that serve the people of our local communities in Christ-like ways (Ephesians 4).
3. How will this project encourage members and your congregation to become more involved in the wholeness and wellbeing (Shalom) of their communities (Jeremiah 29:7)?
4. How will this initiative seek to make disciples across all economic, racial, and ethnic boundaries (Galatians 3:20)?
5. How will this project foster innovation in the PCUSA new church developments, worshiping communities, and other evangelistic endeavors (Acts 2:46-49)?
6. How is this project encouraging your congregation to rethink your ministries for the 21st century (Romans 12:1-2, Acts 9:31)?

STAKEHOLDERS

Please provide the names and roles of who will be involved in this project.

NAME	ROLE

OUTCOMES

- State your goals for the project and how those goals will be measured.
- Share how you will evaluate the learnings, goals, and/or results from this project.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Please attach a project timeline of all activities.
- Provide a narrative explanation of project activities.

PROJECT BUDGET

- Please attach a project budget outlining income sources and expenses.
- For all items or vendor estimates over \$1,000, please provide at least two written quotes.
- Provide a narrative explanation of any additional income sources, including contributions of money, time and talents, and expenses if applicable.
- If you plan for this project to continue, how will it be sustained after the grant is spent?

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- Signed and dated Session minutes authorizing the submission of the grant application.
- If you have received a Blessing Grant in the past three years, a copy of that project's final report.