

# **The Ohio River Valley District of The United Methodist Church**

2019 Local Church Grant Funding  
Background, Explanation, and Application



Based on The Ohio River Valley District  
“Faithful Steps” Strategic Plan

## Dear friends in Christ,

It is a joy and privilege to share in ministry as United Methodists together in The Ohio River Valley District of The United Methodist Church.

Because of the faithful generosity of local churches supporting our mission through their apportionments and because of the long-term vision of those who gave toward our Mission Foundation endowment, we have the great blessing of being able to offer grant funds to both local churches and United Methodist related ministry agencies in our district.

As we describe our mission as Christians and as United Methodists, it includes reaching out to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of all of God's people, especially those who have not heard or experienced the gift of grace that is offered to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we offer Local Church Mission grants, we desire to fund ministries and projects that further the mission of the church and that are in alignment with the strategic directives of Scripture, of the General United Methodist Church (The Four Areas of Focus), of The West Ohio Conference (Mission Statement and Five Fruitful Practices), and of The Ohio River Valley District (Taking the Next Faithful Step Strategic Plan).

The mission statement of The West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church is *"To equip local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world...a world of justice, love, and peace filled with people growing in the likeness of Jesus Christ."* We as a district act on behalf of the annual conference to help equip local churches in their mission of making disciples.

It is our intent that these mission grants would help local churches and related ministry agencies in our district to reach people with the healing love and grace of Jesus Christ more effectively. This will increase the joy, hope, and vitality of local churches and create energy for growth as others hear the story and are invited to be part of a dynamic missional effort.

If you have any questions or need any help with the grant application process, please contact me, Cindi Dietrich, or members of the District Strategy Team.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen, Assistant to the Superintendent

### **2018-2019 District Strategy Team Members**

Ms. Denise Casey

Rev. Stephanie Tunison

Ms. Linda Young

Rev. Arun Paul

Rev. Brent Dearnell

Rev. Dean Penrod

Mr. Bill Smith

## Step by Step Guide to Applying for at 2019 Local Church Grant

1. Read all the way through this packet including the introductory material and application.
2. Talk with your pastor and church leadership team about how grant funding in this area might benefit your church.  
Begin to brainstorm what this grant might look like in your context asking questions such as “How could utilizing a coach benefit our congregation?” or “What social justice area is God calling us to expand our understanding and capacity for action within?” or “Who in our congregation could benefit from leadership training?”
3. Note the due date of the application and the signatures that are required.
4. If you have any questions, plan to attend one of three 2019 Local Church Grant Overview Training Events that will take place at the District Office.  
Wednesday August 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm  
Monday August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
5. Choose one of the five strategic areas described in the following pages that fit with the needs of your local congregation. These areas correspond to the five areas of the “Taking the Next Faithful Step” District Strategic Plan.
6. Choose a funding option within that strategic area that will help move forward the vision and mission of your local congregation.
7. Pray over how God is leading you to proceed, giving room for the Holy Spirit to help you think beyond the normal or usual.
8. Fill out your application leaving plenty of time to review your work, allow others (pastor, leadership team, etc.) to review and give feedback, and to get the appropriate signatures.
9. Deliver your grant application to the District Office by 4pm on Friday October 5, 2018.
10. The District Strategy Committee will review your applications. Please expect a phone call and a possible site visit by a District Strategy Committee member. The District Strategy Committee will then make a recommendation to the District Mission Foundation for funding.

## Framework for 2019 Local Church Funding:

<u>Strategic Area</u>	<u>approximate percentage of funding designated</u>
#1. Branding and Marketing	12%
#2. Equip and Resource	12%
#3. Leadership	12%
#4. Reorganization & Collaboration Excellence	12%
#5. Outreach & Witness	20%
#6. Strategic Reserve	12%
	Local Church grants 80%
	Agency grants 20%

## Criteria for Awarding Grants—Additional Guidelines

1. Up to 50% of a grant may be used for staffing a new position as long as the salary support is equally matched by the congregation. If a grant request is made for more than one year, the amount to be used for salary support will decrease each year that the grant is approved.
2. The will of the District Strategy team is that funds would be spent on ministry rather than building maintenance. This being said, a portion of a grant (no more than 33%) may be used for building/facility upgrades that support the mission and ministry goals as defined in the grant.
3. There must be a clear budget and financial plan for the project as well as an intentional integration of the project/ministry into the overall church/organization budget.
4. At least 25% of the project cost must come from the funds of the local congregation.
5. The church must be paying 100% of conference and district apportionments or have a 3 year plan in place to move to 100% payment.
6. Each church may submit a maximum of two grant requests per year. The combined total requested from any church cannot exceed \$25,000.
7. Grant requests to purchase vehicles are strongly discouraged.

## Strategic Area #1: Branding and Marketing 12% of funding

**Strategic Objective:** To encourage and equip local churches to increase their effectiveness in all areas of communications including digital and social media, branding, marketing, signage, as well as traditional media streams to draw more people into the story, welcome, and good news that we have to share.

**This objective is in alignment with:**

The Five Fruitful Practices: Radical Hospitality

The Four Areas of Focus: Creating New Places for New People

**Romans 10:14-15** *“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? This is what the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”*

1. Apply to work with a consultant (available through the district, or UMCom, or your choice) who will help your church work through the tools provided by UMCom such as the Church Marketing Training tool, and Branding and Marketing training. This will include a communications audit, onsite planning, implementation, and training for maintenance. Results will include an excellent communications strategy based around telling the story of who your church is and why others would want to be a part of it.  
As congregations engage in this process, resources of up to \$5,000 will be available to implement any portion that might have additional cost.
2. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be available to work with a coach or local agency/resource in the area of communications to do a full communications audit and create and implement an excellent communications strategy for your congregation.
3. Apply to work with a Radical Hospitality coach who will help the church walk through an audit of how your church offers welcome to new people from the moment they consider attending through the time they make a regular commitment to the church. This coach will help you create a plan to expand your welcome and create spiritual and relational connecting points. As congregations engage in this process, resources of up to \$5,000 will be available to implement any portion that might have additional cost.

## Strategic Area #2: Equip and Resource 12% of funding

**Strategic Objective:** To equip and resource local churches in areas that they would like to learn, grow, and achieve excellence in ministry, particularly in the areas of social justice, cultural competency, and worship. To provide training and resources to develop an infrastructure for long term sustainability in missional and justice ministries.

**This objective is in alignment with:**

The Five Fruitful Practices: Risk Taking Mission and Service

The Four Areas of Focus: Engaging in Ministry with the Poor and  
Improving Global Health

**Romans 12:2** *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

1. Up to a \$10,000 grant in any UMC Social Justice area that the church desires to learn more about and implement ministry based on the areas of focus identified by the General Board of Church and Society, the Social Principles, and the Social Creed:

Natural World/Environmental Justice

Nurturing Community/Health and Wholeness

Social Economic Community/Economic Justice, Civil and Human Rights

Political Community/Peace with Justice

World Community/Peace with Justice

Suggested areas that the ORV has identified as having particular need: Response to the Opioid Crisis, Human Trafficking, Childhood Hunger, Immigration, Ministry with those are or who have been in prison, and Racial Justice and Reconciliation.

2. Work with a District representative in gaining skills around cultural competency and working to implement congregational outreach and community change based on learnings. Up to \$5,000 will be provided to help resource and implement plans.

## Strategic Area #3: Leadership

12% of funding

**Strategic Objective:** To develop passionate, effective, resilient, principled faith leaders within the scope of United Methodist belief and practice.

**This objective is in alignment with:**

The Four Areas of Focus: Developing Principled Leaders  
And works to support each of the 5 Fruitful Practices

**Ephesians 4:11-16:** *“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*

1. Pastors will receive up to \$7,500 to work with a coach to create and work through a plan for personal leadership development for themselves. This will include at least three leadership assessment tools, a learning plan to increase strengths and identify areas of potential growth or partnership, a spiritual development plan, emotional development plan and a physical health plan.
2. Pastors and staff will work together to create a plan for leadership development of staff members including their physical, spiritual, and emotional health, and practical skills through training in their specific area of ministry. Up to \$5,000 will be granted for assessment, coaching and training opportunities.
3. Pastors and lay leaders will work to create a plan for inviting, equipping, and empowering laity for work within the church, the community, and the world. This will include a plan for goal setting and implementation in physical, spiritual, and emotional health as well as training in United Methodist polity and practice and training in their specific area of ministry.
4. Up to \$10,000 to work with a coach or consultant to develop a strategic plan for your congregation.

## Strategic Area #4: Reorganization and Collaboration Excellence

### 12% Local Church

**Strategic Objective:** To strengthen connections between churches and agencies, to eliminate silos, and to gain effectiveness in scope and reach through shared mission, vision, purpose and partnerships.

**This objective is in alignment with:**

The Five Fruitful Practices—Faith Forming Relationships and  
Risk Taking Mission and Service  
The Four Areas of Focus—Engaging in Ministry with the Poor  
and Creating New and Renewed Congregations

**Scripture:** *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.” Romans 12:2-6a*

1. Up to \$15,000 granted to support a collaborative effort between at least three churches or community groups to impact your community or beyond in a way that promotes the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Up to \$15,000 granted to at least two churches that collaborate for revitalization. Examples of this might be but are not limited to a joint new worship service, a partnered children’s or youth ministry, a faith in art or music program, or a new space within the community where the love of Christ is shared and those outside of the church are welcomed in and blessed.

## Strategic Area #5a: Outreach

10% of funding

**Strategic Objective:** To provide incentive, traction, and resources for the church to think seriously and strategically about the way they connect to and influence those beyond their church walls in friendship, supportive Kingdom bearing community, and service to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**This objective is in alignment with:**

The Five Fruitful Practices of Radical Hospitality and Risk taking Mission and Service  
The Four Areas of Focus including Engaging in Ministry with the Poor  
And Improving Global Health

**Luke 10:1-3:** *“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”*”

1. Up to \$10,000 for local church leaders to be equipped and have resources to create a “New Place for New People.” Suggested resources in visioning and implementing what this might be are the Path 1 resources through Discipleship Ministries and the West Ohio Greenhouse.
2. Up to \$10,000 for local churches to grow in their understanding of, skills and passion for, and plan for the work of evangelism—“telling the old story of Jesus and his love” in ways that are creative, fresh and able to be heard by those who need to hear and relate to that story today.
3. Up to \$10,000 to fund a mission outreach of the local church including food pantries, tutoring programs, camp programs, community meals, etc. Ongoing ministries will only be funded directly for three years out of every ten with future years being funded for training in long term funding sustainability, creating a non-profit, or in resources such as The Connection Blueprint which helps develop connections between outreach ministries and local church participation.
4. Youth mission trips—Up to \$1,000 per year to youth groups for school-year mission trips. (separate application for summer mission trips will be offered in early 2019)
5. Matching camp scholarships—Up to a \$2,000 matching grant will be given to churches that sponsor children from their churches who would not attend otherwise due to financial or other support issues.
6. Intergenerational mission trips—Up to \$1,000 will be granted to groups that are intentionally intergenerational and engaging in a mission trip project.

## Strategic Area #5b: Witness

10% of funding

**Strategic Objective:** To provide incentive, traction, and resources for the local church to think seriously and strategically about how they are helping those who are within their reach to grow into mature and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who worship, study, serve, and give generously at every age and stage of their lives.

**This objective is in alignment with:**

The Five Fruitful Practices of Passionate Worship,  
Faith Forming Relationships, and Extravagant Generosity  
The Four Areas of Focus, Creating New and Renewed Congregations

**Matthew 28:16-20:** *“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*”

1. Up to \$10,000 to increase your discipleship focus within your church including creating and implementing a discipleship pathway that covers life stages from the cradle to the grave but that has a bias toward the faith formation of children and youth and intergenerational faith formation. Churches are encouraged to use the resources of Junius Dodson and Discipleship Ministries, and study local churches that are doing discipleship well.
2. Up to \$10,000 to increase the quality, passion, and depth of your worship experience. Churches will use a 360 worship assessment tool or work with a worship coach to help create a plan for next steps as well as focusing on key areas of worship such as quality of planning, music, liturgy, preaching, and involvement of a variety of age groups. The pastor and team will be given several weeks of worship sabbatical to visit vital churches of similar demographics in order to gain insight and envision new possibilities.
3. Up to \$10,000 to resource the pastor and leadership team in the area of effective stewardship. This may include training, working with a coach or consultant, so that a stewardship campaign can be a time of building confidence and capacity by connecting giving with the joy and purpose of the church and how it touches and transforms lives with the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Mission Foundation**  
**Ohio River Valley District of The United Methodist Church**

7388 E. Kemper Rd.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45249  
(513)421-2057  
[www.orvumc.org](http://www.orvumc.org)

**2019 Local Church Application for Grant Funding**

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
website \_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Average Worship Attendance Under 100 \_\_\_\_\_ 101-300 \_\_\_\_\_ Over 300 \_\_\_\_\_

First time applicant \_\_\_\_\_ or Returning applicant \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which Strategic Area does your grant request fall under?
  1. Branding and Marketing Option \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Equip and Resource Option \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Leadership Option \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Reorganization & Collaboration Excellence Option \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5a. Outreach Option \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5b. Witness Option \_\_\_\_\_

2. Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

3. Project Focus \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Project Goals \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Funding Amount Requested \_\_\_\_\_

6. Project Budget \_\_\_\_\_  
Please provide a detailed Project Budget as an attachment. Include all anticipated expenses, and itemize all anticipated income.

7. Amount your church will contribute to this project (must be at least 25% of project budget)  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Total church budget (please attach detail) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is your church current on their 2018 apportionments? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, please list why and what the plan is for becoming current \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the vision statement of your church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. How will this project help to move the vision of your church forward and help you accomplish your goals for this year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Who will oversee this project?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Role in congregation \_\_\_\_\_

13. Who will benefit most from this project? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. What are the demographics of the community that you serve? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(If you are unsure, please consider registering and using your subscription to Mission Insite provided to you by the West Ohio Conference at [www.missioninsite.com](http://www.missioninsite.com) Password SSQUJ. We do not want the printout of this information. Please summarize what you learn and how it relates to your context for ministry.)

15. Please give a brief overview of the timeline of implementation of this project \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Is this project a one time request or an ongoing ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

17. If it is an ongoing ministry, what plans do you have for the project to become sustainable by your local church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. How will you measure the success of this project? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. How many people will this project engage or influence? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20. How does this project help share the good news and witness to God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

21. How will you celebrate and 'tell the story' of your ministry project? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

22. Please share some ways beyond grant funding that the Ohio River Valley District can support and celebrate your ministry \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Attachments Requested:**

1. 2018 Budget with income and expenses.
2. 2019 Detailed Grant Project Budget with itemized line items for expenses.
3. Three estimates for any request involving equipment purchase or building upgrades.
4. Two estimates for any request involving coaching or consulting.
5. Signature page with actual signatures.

### **Agreements:**

1. I understand that this application is due by 4pm on Friday, October 5, 2018.
2. I agree to help 'tell the story' of our ministry by sharing information with the district that can be used in the Ohio River Valley District's News and Notes and on the District's website at least three (3) times a year.
3. I understand that all receipts submitted for reimbursement must be dated within the calendar year of 2019.
4. I understand that I must send copies of all receipts and information about how they correspond to the grant funding line items to Shira Jackson [sjackson@wocumc.org](mailto:sjackson@wocumc.org) in the district office in a timely fashion. 2019 receipts will not be reimbursed after January 31, 2020.
5. I agree to submit a mid-year evaluation by July 31, 2019.
6. I agree to make a display and presentation about our ministry and attend the fall District Mission Foundation Abundant Fruit event.
7. I agree to submit an end of the year evaluation of the project by January 31, 2020.

## Signature Page

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Grant Project Coordinator

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Church Council Chairperson

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Finance Chairperson/Treasurer

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Pastor

**Please Mail or Deliver one unbound hard copy printed single sided of all documents requested in this application by 4pm on Friday October 5, 2018 to:**

The Ohio River Valley District Office  
7388 E. Kemper Rd.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45249  
513-421-2057

**No faxed or electronic submissions will be accepted.**

**It is a privilege and blessing to be partners in ministry with you. If you have any questions, please contact:**

**Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen** [sallen@wocumc.org](mailto:sallen@wocumc.org)

**Ms. Shira Jackson** [sjackson@wocumc.org](mailto:sjackson@wocumc.org)