

# The Ohio River Valley District of The United Methodist Church

2023 Local Church Grant Funding  
Background, Explanation, and Application



Based on The Ohio River Valley District  
“Next Steps” Strategic Initiatives

## 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.

Through the 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 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 (Next 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."* As a district, we 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 Rev. Wendy Lybarger, Regional Missional Specialist, at [wlybarger@wocumc.org](mailto:wlybarger@wocumc.org).

Blessings,

*Jenn*

Rev. Jenn Lucas  
Superintendent, Ohio River Valley

## Step by Step Guide to Applying for at 2023 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. What could these funds make possible that you wouldn't try otherwise? What is God's dream for us?
3. Note the due date of the application and the signatures that are required.
4. If you have any questions, contact Rev. Wendy Lybarger, [wlybarger@wocumc.org](mailto:wlybarger@wocumc.org), to schedule a grant training conversation.
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 "Next Steps" 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 move.
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. E-mail your grant application to the District Office by the end of the day on Monday September 26, 2022. Please include all items in one attachment. This makes our electronic review much easier.
10. The District Strategy Committee will review your applications. The District Strategy Committee will then make a recommendation to the District Mission Foundation for funding.

## Framework for 2023 Local Church Funding:

| <b><u>Strategic Area</u></b>    | <b><u>approximate percentage of funding designated</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| #1. New and Emerging Ministries | 15%                                                        |
| #2. Adaptive Ministry Grants    | 15%                                                        |
| #3. Social Justice Grants       | 15%                                                        |
| #4. Ministry with Young People  | 15%                                                        |
| #5. Outreach                    | 15%                                                        |
|                                 | Local Church grants 75%                                    |
|                                 | Agency grants 25%                                          |

## 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 demonstrate that they are committed to paying apportionments and have paid a minimum of 25% of their apportionments or an amount equivalent to what they request in their grant.
6. Each church may submit a maximum of two local church grant requests per year. The combined total requested from any church cannot exceed \$20,000.
7. Grant requests to purchase vehicles are strongly discouraged.

## Strategic Area #1: New and Emerging Ministries 15% of funding

**Strategic Objective:** To provide funding to support and encourage new and emerging ministries including, New Church Starts, Fresh Expressions, and other new dreams and visions for ministry in your local context.

**Scriptural Foundation:**

**Matthew 28:19-20** “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 that I have commanded you.”

**Revelation 21:5a** “He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

- Each church may apply for up to \$20,000 per year
- Additional funding requests per church may be considered if there are matching funds contributed locally and there is a second new worshiping community or Fresh Expression Initiative occurring under the umbrella of the same lead church
- Recipients of these grants must work within the New Church Start/Fresh Expression protocols of the WOC

## Strategic Area #2: Adaptive Ministry Grants 15% of funding

**Strategic Objective:** To help leaders adapt to the changing world we do ministry in through increased use of technology, branding and marketing, and innovative leadership practice.

**Scriptural Foundation:**

**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.”

- Up to \$5,000 per year for technology development including branding and marketing and online worship and faith development.
- Up to \$5,000 per year for leadership development, or other innovative ministry plan that helps to develop passionate, effective, resilient, principled faith leaders within the scope of United Methodist belief and practice.

## Strategic Area #3: Social Justice Initiatives

15% 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 and cultural competency. To provide training and resources to develop an infrastructure for long term sustainability in mission and justice ministries.

**Scriptural Foundation:**

**Matthew 25:40** “The king will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

- Up to \$7,000 per year toward our ORV focus areas of social justice: Including anti-racism, immigration, addiction, mental health, or creation care initiatives
- Other social justice efforts in line with the UMC Social Principles may be considered
- Work with an IDI 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 #4: Ministry with Young People

15% funding

**Strategic Objective:** To encourage and support the faith development and discipleship of young people. To build a culture of leadership and call among young people.

**Scriptural Foundation:**

**Matthew 19:14** “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

- Up to \$10,000 per year to be used in ways that develop faith, leadership, and justice practice in young people.

## Strategic Area #5:

## Outreach

15% 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.

### **Scriptural Foundation:**

**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.”*

- Up to \$7,000 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.
- Up to \$7,000 to fund a mission outreach of the local church including food pantries, tutoring programs, camp programs, community meals, etc.

## 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)

### 2023 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. **New and Emerging Ministries** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Adaptive Ministry Grants** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Social Justice Grants** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Ministry with Young People** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Mission Outreach** \_\_\_\_\_

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 2022 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. 2023 Budget with income and expenses.
2. 2023 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 5 pm on Monday, September 26, 2022.
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.
3. I understand that all receipts submitted for reimbursement must be dated within the calendar year of 2023.
4. I understand that I must send copies of all receipts and information about how they correspond to the grant funding line items to Nancy Newton, [nnewton@wocumc.org](mailto:nnewton@wocumc.org), in the district office in a timely fashion. 2023 receipts will not be reimbursed after January 31, 2024.
5. I agree to submit a mid-year evaluation by July 31, 2023.
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, 2024.

## 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 Email your application in one attachment by 5 pm, Monday, September 26, 2022 to:**  
Rev. Wendy Lybarger, [wlybarger@wocumc.org](mailto:wlybarger@wocumc.org)

Or mail to:

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

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

*Rev. Wendy Lybarger, [wlybarger@wocumc.org](mailto:wlybarger@wocumc.org)*