

NORTHERN LIGHTS REGION GRANTS POLICY

Dec. 2022

Congregations and other organizations related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region may request grants for special programs and ministry opportunities. Grant requests are encouraged for projects involving multiple congregations and/or ecumenical partners. All ministry projects must include at least one congregation from the Region.

Grants will generally be limited to \$2,500 per request per year and may not be used for general ongoing expenses of the congregation or organization. This policy does not govern grants under the Lane-Salmon Clergy Assistance Fund or the Clergy Scholarship Fund which are governed by their own requirements.

Generally, grants will be offered for Transformation or Reconciliation ministry projects. Grant requests outside those programs or for larger dollar amounts may be considered by the Regional Board. Any such requests will need to meet all the criteria below as well as provide a clear statement why the project is appropriate for funding from the Region beyond the normal parameters of this policy.

Requests for grants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Does the project align with the Vision and Mission of the Northern Lights Region
- Does the project positively impact the wider community locally and/or globally
- Does the project help the congregation/organization explore new areas of ministry
- Is the congregation/organization engaged in and supportive of the ministries of the Northern Lights Region (e.g., supporting Disciples Mission Fund, financial support of the Region, participating in regional events and programs)

Grant requests for Transformation ministry projects will be evaluated by the Regional Transformation Team. If the Transformation Team approves the grant request, it will be forwarded to the Regional Board for final approval.

Grant requests for Reconciliation ministry projects will be evaluated by the Regional Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team. If the Regional Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team approves the grant request, it will be forwarded to the Regional Board for final approval.

All other grant requests will be evaluated by the Executive Committee with their recommendation sent to the Regional Board, or by the Regional Board as a whole. The Regional Board will have final approval responsibility for all grant requests.

Except for emergencies, grant requests will be considered at the next regular meeting of the Regional Board following submission of the completed application. Emergency requests may be considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Board. Grants will be evaluated both on the nature of the proposed ministry project and the availability of appropriate funds. In addition to the above criteria, requests for grants from the Reconciliation Fund must be directed to projects that contribute toward eliminating racism, empowering racially marginalized communities and/or fostering multiracial communication.

The following information is required to apply for a grant from the Northern Lights Region:

- Name, address and contact of the congregation applying for the grant, including the pastor and at least one lay leader within the congregation
- Identify specific type of grant being requested (Transformation or Reconciliation). If for another purpose, clearly state how the project helps fulfill the Vision and Mission of the Northern Lights Region
- Indicate if the congregation/organization has received grants from the Region and if so, when.
- Provide a detailed description of the ministry project for which you are seeking funding:
 - A detailed description of the project including other funding sources and how the project will continue after the initial grant money is spent.
 - Background on how the idea for the came about.
 - Who will be involved in carrying out the project and who will benefit from the work.
 - Clearly identify how the project helps the Region move forward in its Vision and Mission.
 - Clearly identify how the project meets the criteria for either Transformation or Reconciliation.

Provide a brief description of ways in which the congregation is engaged in and supportive of the Northern Lights Region and the wider church through financial support and/or active participation.

Provide at least one letter of reference from a member of the congregation or community who will participate in or benefit from the project.

Grant recipients will be required to submit a report within sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the project or a progress report one year after the grant is received, whichever is earlier. The report should include detailed information about the persons impacted by the project, partners included in the project, any ongoing actions growing out of the project and challenges/learnings from the project. Projects funded by Transformation funds will provide the report to the Transformation Team; Reconciliation projects will provide the report to the Pro-reconciliation/Anti-racism Team. Other projects will provide their report the Executive Committee of the Regional Board.

Grant requests may be submitted by mail or email.

Mail grant requests to:

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region
4227 S. Meridian, C615
Puyallup, WA 98373

Email grant requests to: office@northernlightsdisciples.org