



PRESBYTERY OF UTAH

Blessing Grants Initiative

Approved by Council January 4, 2018

OBJECTIVES of this initiative:

1. To engage, equip, and encourage innovative attempts to develop and expand hands-on ministries that proclaim God's love in Jesus Christ and serve the people in our congregations and the communities in Christ-like ways.
2. To embrace new immigrants, people on the margins of middle class life and others at our doorsteps.
3. To foster risk-taking innovation in church development to push the boundaries, ideas and expectations about how God sends missional communities/congregations into ministry

We believe God is unceasingly active in the lives of people in our local communities. Consistent with our "go into the world" theology and "transform the world" mission, we believe that we are called to be unceasingly present in our communities to identify, advocate for, celebrate, and partner with what God is already doing all around us. We also believe that doing this will breathe new vigor into our ministries. By belonging in word and deed more deeply to our communities, we believe our communities will be more and more blessed.

DESCRIPTION of this initiative: Using money resulting from the sale of the Westvale property, Presbytery will establish a permanent invested fund, the earnings from which will be given as grants to congregations, presbytery entities, or "Consortiums of interested parties" who are associated with the Presbytery of Utah (grant requestors) who propose to initiate or significantly alter or expand outreach ministries in their local communities. Grant requestors who are "Consortiums of interested parties" will require sponsorship of a member of the Presbytery. Grants can also be requested that will help support congregants to shift toward a more external focus. This fund will be replenished using earnings from the invested funds and any gifts designated for this purpose from organizations or individuals.

Yearly, in early fall, the council will establish the total amount of available grant money – as part of the Presbytery budget process – and a call will go out to for applications, with awards made in the Spring.

Grant Requests

Grant requestors may submit proposals for evaluation by the Presbytery Council Grants Subcommittee. The Council will consider recommendations from the Grants Subcommittee on proposals and level of funding. The Council will determine the level of support for the project and the funds will be dispersed in the Spring. The projects will be evaluated at least annually, and the evaluation is used to adjust the grant making and acceptance criteria. Grant recipients will be expected to report annually on the progress and success of the project in a regularly scheduled presbytery meeting. For churches

submitting grant requests, priority will be given to those participating in Presbytery per capita and mission giving.

An application that addresses the following questions should be submitted to the Grants Subcommittee of the Council c/o www.admin.pbyutah.org .

Questions to address in the grant application: The overall questions being answered in this grant application are 1) What is this grant intended to accomplish and how is this project a blessing to the people of the community—beyond the church and 2) how is this project going to build the discipleship of those who are part of the church. Those two synergistic movements are what we want to see in the Community Blessing Grants Initiative.

1. Date of request.
2. Name of the requesting organization and contact person(s).
3. What is the present community condition or situation that this grant is intended to improve?
4. Provide a proposed income and expense budget for the project using the attached budget template. For multi-year projects please provide a budget template for out-years. (Note: multiyear projects will be evaluated yearly). Describe the contributions of the sponsoring organization to the project (money, time, talents, etc.).
5. If this is a continuing request, please provide the expected income and expenses for the current year.
6. Paint a vision for the Blessing Project being planned, and its duration - new or expanded?
7. Describe what you hope will be accomplished. What goals or objectives do you hope to meet with this project and by when?
8. Explain why this project will be a blessing to your community and why you believe your efforts will be fruitful.
9. How will this project build discipleship in your church(es)?
10. Who (individual(s) or team(s)) will be championing this project? Why are they are called and equipped to champion this project?
11. Describe the discernment process that went into undertaking this initiative. Why do you believe God wants your partnership in this endeavor?
12. How and when will you evaluate the development and effectiveness of this project? By what measures will the project be evaluated? (Projects must have a least yearly objectives and evaluation criteria. Evaluation criteria should be quantifiable if possible)

How the Council will evaluate the grant request:

These are some questions the Council will ask themselves about the grant request when evaluating whether to fund it and support the request.

1. The grant proposal starts something completely new and untried or alters the trajectory or significantly expands a current activity.

2. The vision is clear and overall rationale is compelling. (The need is well described and outreach deftly targeted)
3. Goals and objectives for this project are well- articulated
4. The \$ amount requested is well rationalized.
5. Proposal demonstrates multiple sources of financial support and a desire/plan to develop the project toward self- sustainability (if project has life beyond one year)—no longer dependent on the Blessing Grant for its life and impact.
6. Proposal has approval and support of the session, or appropriate governing entity.
7. Congregation or entity exhibits readiness and ability to accomplish its intentions.
8. The individual(s) or team(s) who will be championing this project demonstrate whole- hearted ownership for the project.
9. The development of this project shows evidence of God’s leading and guiding the proposers through discernment.
10. The proposal contains evaluation measures that are well aligned with hoped-for outcomes. In other words, the project will be looking at criteria in its evaluation that actually measure what the project sets out to do.

Criteria for Evaluating Project Results:

The following questions will be asked of project leaders to help the Council or a subcommittee evaluate whether Blessing Projects that have been funded are effective in their mission?

1. Were the project’s proposed markers of effectiveness realized? If so, please evaluate whether those markers were adequate to indicate effectiveness and suggest what you might change to the markers of effectiveness. If not, please offer an explanation why the markers weren’t achieved and what adjustments you have made or propose to make in the future.
2. What seemed to work very well? Why?
3. What seemed to fail? Why? NOTE: Failure is often more informative than success - please be candid!
4. Were mid- course adjustments made? Did the adjustments increase your costs? If so describe them and the result.
5. Was congregation especially supportive of this effort? (If not, why?)
6. What was the overall community reaction to the effort? (How was the reaction expressed and measured?)
7. What lessons were learned that can increase the probability of future success?