



Healthy Congregation Grant Guidelines

The **Healthy Congregation Grant Fund** is a project of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We offer grants to member congregations for assistance in areas that impact their congregational health.

Our goals are to:

- Help congregations plan for and live into God's future*
- Assist during pastoral transitions*
- Equip lay leaders with skills and knowledge of best practices*
- Strengthen the ministry of pastors – present and future*
- Assist congregations to stand with their neighbors*
- Build strong connections between congregations in PNMC*

Here's how it works: Any member congregation or constituency group of PNMC may apply to receive grant money. Grant requests may be for amounts up to \$3000/year. Grants under \$500 may be awarded by the Executive Conference Minister and will be reviewed on a continual basis. Grants over \$500 will be awarded by a committee and requests will be reviewed quarterly.

PROPOSAL REVIEW CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

When we evaluate grant proposals, we consider the following questions:

- Does the proposal/activity encourage the health of the congregation? How?
- Does the proposal/activity address a significant need for the congregation, conference, or community?
- Does the proposal/activity connect congregations in the conference in any way?
- Are there other avenues of funding for this project?

The Healthy Congregation Grant Program seeks to promote projects that help your congregation strengthen its mission, witness, outreach to your community and/or life together as the body of Christ.

However, the following projects typically fall outside of our mission and goals:

- Capital improvement projects;
- Fundraising campaigns;
- Funding to meet congregational budget

GRANT PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS:

Application Deadline/ Required Materials: There is no specific submission deadline. Please submit when your congregation is ready and please indicate in your project's timeline in your application. Applications can be found at pnmc.org/grants.

Grant requests under \$500: After the proposal is received the Executive Conference Minister will review it. An attempt will be made to process these requests within 45 days of receiving the application. If there are questions regarding the proposal, the ECM may contact you and/or bring the request to the Healthy Congregations Grant Committee for additional input. The ECM will make final decisions on grants under \$500.

Grant requests over \$500: After the proposal is received, the ECM will inform you of the next proposal review date. *These will be scheduled at least quarterly.* The Healthy Congregation Grant Committee may also contact you with any questions they have. Please feel free to contact the ECM prior to submission if you would like assistance in the application process including feedback and suggestions to help refine proposals. The final decision on grants over \$500 will be made by the Committee.

Grant Follow Up: After you have been awarded a grant and have carried out your proposal/activity, you will be asked to submit a Follow-up Summary. This will include statements about the benefits of the grant for your congregation, learnings for your congregation, and how you might share what you experienced and learned with others in the conference.

Examples of possible grant areas:

This is not an exhaustive list. We welcome creative proposals beyond what is listed here.

Help congregations plan for and live into God's future

Examples: consultants and retreats to develop vision plans, start-up funds to implement plans, conference-wide youth events and support for youth participating in MMN programs; consultants to help congregations confront conflict and heal from trauma.

Assist during pastoral transitions

Examples: internship program with seminaries, support for visits from potential pastors, support for relocation expenses for new pastors, training for local interim pastors, support for necessary immigration expenses for pastors coming from outside the US

Equip lay leaders with skills and knowledge of best practices

Examples: workshops hosted in PNMC and scholarships to attend events outside PNMC – immigration advocacy, Sister Care, Stephen Ministry, Healthy Boundaries, Worship planning

Strengthen the ministry of pastors present and future

Examples: scholarships for continuing education events, small church support for health insurance, pastor/leaders retreat, conferences in PNMC and scholarship to attend outside PNMC, support for counseling or spiritual direction, support for leadership education and/or seminary studies

Assist congregations in standing with their neighbors

Examples: responding to immigration needs, responding to homelessness, developing and sustaining voluntary service programs, forming sister church relationships of differing cultures, hosting community children's programs, making congregations accessible to the disabled, providing interpretation

Build strong connections with other congregations

Examples: joint service/mission trips and projects, shared camping or retreat program, hosting speakers for joint worship or joint workshops



**Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference**

Questions? www.pnmc.org/grants
Or office@pnmc.org