

Mission Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Mission Outreach and Justice Committee
2017 Ministry Grants Funding Guidelines

Rationale

In support of mission within Mission Presbytery, we believe:

- That Jesus Christ calls the church to minister to those who are poor, hungry, despairing, oppressed or suffering from injustice.
- That sharing in mission work with others is a desirable witness to the oneness of Christ's grace, love and ministry, and that sharing in mission with those of other faiths opens new opportunities for mutual understanding and the maturing of faith.
- That it is God's will for Christians to be involved in mission not only with financial resources but also with love, mercy, compassion, and justice.

Overview

A very limited number of annual grants may be made – generally to agencies in which Mission Presbytery as a body maintains membership (examples: Texas Conference of Churches, Texas Impact). All other grants will be one time or for at most 2 – 3 years. That is, new initiatives may be given priority in grant evaluations. Grant applications are evaluated by the Mission Outreach and Justice Committee (MOJC). MOJC makes funding recommendations to Mission Presbytery, General Council.

Mission Grants Application Process

The application process serves to identify and support local regional programs or projects (hereafter projects) worthy of the participation and support of our member congregations. Projects must have significant participation by two or more of our congregations, and meet other criteria for Christian witness and accountability. These projects shall be located within the bounds of Mission Presbytery, along either side of the border with Mexico, and in other countries where Mission Presbytery or its churches have an active partnership relationship.

Mission Presbytery employs the following criteria in considering mission projects for possible funding and support:

1. The project shall demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed and shall be a valid response to God's will as affirmed in one or more of the statements above.
2. Those working in the project shall understand that Mission Presbytery considers the project to be an instrument of its ministry outreach in the love of Jesus Christ.
3. There shall be significant participation in the project by Presbyterians living within the bounds of Mission Presbytery.

Mission Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Mission Outreach and Justice Committee
2017 Ministry Grants Funding Guidelines

4. There shall be ongoing efforts to encourage support for the project by additional Presbyterians congregations.
5. MOJC may request a site visit before funding is granted and/or during the term of a grant.
6. Since the Presbytery, through its outreach efforts, seeks effectiveness in the work of the Church, as well as good intentions, the Mission Outreach and Justice Committee (MOJC) will review grant applications according to these additional criteria:
 - The project shall be working in an area of clearly identifiable need.
 - The project shall exhibit competent management of its affairs.
 - There shall be evidence of enthusiasm and dedication among those engaged in the work.
 - Whenever possible, the project should involve persons from the community served in the planning and execution of its work, including development of leadership and financial support.
 - The project shall have specific written goals including plans for their achievement and methods for assessment of progress.
 - The past record, if any, of the project shall demonstrate accomplishments related to its purposes.
 - An evaluation must be sent to the MOJC within 30 days after the purpose of the grant is fulfilled. It will indicate to what extent the goals and purposes of the grant were met.
 - Nonprofits must submit a copy of:
 - Annual operating budget and project budget when appropriate
 - Tax Exemption Letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
 - The most recently filed IRS Form 990 including Schedule A.
 - The most recent independent financial review or audit.¹ Agencies with an annual income of \$750,000 or more must submit an audit.

Failure to provide complete documentation may result in disqualification.

Special Grants to Churches

The MOJC may make available seed money for start-up projects initiated by a church or churches in the Presbytery. In some cases, a grant may be a matching grant to funds a church itself has raised. Ordinarily, these will be a one-time grant, after which application for a regular grant may be made under the conditions outlined above.

¹ The audit/review must cover a period ending no earlier than 18 months prior to the application deadline.