

Minneapolis Area Synod Resurrection Fund

Ministry Imagination Grant Guidelines and Procedures (revised February 25, 2019)

*The gifts Christ gave...were to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ.... Ephesians 4:11-12*

Background: The Resurrection Fund of the Minneapolis Area Synod was established by the Synod Council in 2017. The Fund will steward proceeds from the sale of property donated to the synod by congregations that have concluded their own ministries. The initial gift to the Fund was about \$1.2 million. This and subsequent gifts will be used for six purposes:

- Small grants, to be called *Ministry Imagination Grants* – using 25% of the total fund
- ELCA ministries outside the synod – 10%
- Ministry in the synod that continues a unique gift of the closed congregation – 10%
- A project or projects within the synod designed to have a major impact – 25%
- New mission starts within the synod – 25%
- Telling the stories of all these projects; administration – 5%

The Synod Council is responsible for the distribution of all funds. It has established a Resurrection Fund Advisory Committee (RFAC) to make recommendations for *Ministry Imagination Grants*, subject to review by the Synod Council or its Executive Committee.

Purpose and Eligibility: The *Ministry Imagination Grants* are intended to offer support for new, enhanced or expanded ministry initiatives that uniquely further the gospel, encourage growth in faith, and/or strengthen Christian service within the geographical area of the Synod.

Any congregation of the Minneapolis Area Synod may develop a proposal, either independently, or in a partnership that includes two or more synod congregations, or through a partnership of congregation(s) and other ministries or service entities.

Scope: Grant applications may be for an amount from \$2,000 to \$25,000. The Advisory Committee may award the full amount requested, may propose a partial grant, or may decline to make a grant. A grant is intended to provide funds for no more than two years. For projects lasting a year or less, disbursement will normally be by a single payment.

Possibilities: The Advisory Committee is open to considering both innovative short-term projects and projects intended to leverage a longer-term vision for new, enhanced or expanded ministry. Ministry impact and sustainability are important.

Funds might be requested to cover equipping and training people, project facilitation through staff or consultants, program elements, material, and/or equipment. These possibilities are offered to stimulate creativity and imagination, and are not meant as a restrictive list. All applications that honor the stated purposes and requirements of the *Ministry Imagination Grants* will be considered.

Grants are not intended to support permanent staffing. Grants for projects outside of the geographical area of the Synod will not be considered.

Grants applications should be program focused. Any proposed use for capital expenditures must be justified on the basis of program enhancement. If capital expenditures are included, the application must make clear how the applying congregation will share in the cost.

Process: Requests for grants shall include three documents, which may be submitted as one:

1. The application itself with the following information in two (2) pages or less:
 - a. Congregation making the request. If the applicant is a partnership, please list all partners, beginning with the congregation that would formally receive the grant.
 - b. Name, phone and email contact information for the person(s) coordinating the application who can respond to any questions and will receive notice of decisions.
 - c. Description of the proposal. In the description, include rationale, goals, project components and activities envisioned. Be explicit about the project's anticipated impact on the mission of the congregation/partnership/synod. The proposal description is the core of your application. Long term plans to sustain the project should be addressed, if applicable.
 - d. Time frame for the use of the grant (Start date, date funds needed, expected date of completion).
 - e. Grant amount requested
2. The proposed budget in one (1) page or less. Include projected expenses and revenue, naming other funding sources confirmed or being sought.
3. Documentation of official action to support the grant application from the governing body of the sponsoring congregation(s).

Email the completed three-part application as an attachment. Send to the attention of Resurrection Fund Advisory Committee, Minneapolis Area Synod, at masimaginationgrants@gmail.com and to Pr. Craig Pederson at c.pederson@mpls-synod.org.

Grant Recipient Responsibilities:

- Submit the requested application materials following the guidelines above and respond to any Advisory Committee requests for additional information.
- Carry out the approved project and use synod grant funds within the time specified in the application unless a request for changes has been submitted to and approved by the Advisory Committee in advance.
- Submit a report or story about the project at its conclusion, using guidelines that will be sent to you after the grant is approved. Photos or videos with permission for publication by the synod are welcome. For projects designed to last longer than a year, a one-year interim report or story is required.
- Provide a concluding specific but brief accounting of the use of grant funds. Unused funds must be returned to the Resurrection Fund and will be used for later Ministry Imagination Grants.

Timeline:

- The next application deadline is expected to be September 15, 2019, pending availability of funds. Contact the synod office to confirm this date and subsequent application deadlines.
- Allow approximately 60 days from the application deadline for the Advisory Committee's consideration of applications, decisions, notification of applicants, and announcement of grants.
- Disbursement of awarded grants will occur approximately 90 days after the application deadline.

For Questions: Please contact Pastor Craig Pederson, Assistant to the Bishop, c.pederson@mpls-synod.org