

Minneapolis Area Synod Resurrection Fund

Ministry Imagination Grant Guidelines and Procedures

Revised 12/19/25

"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

Ministry Imagination Grant Application

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:

- 10% - Tithe to an ELCA ministry, ELCA affiliated or partner ministry outside the synod
- 10% - Support of a "charism" (unique giftedness) of the congregation, and/or a community ministry or program where the congregation was located
- 20% - Macro Grant, known as "Major Impact Ministry Initiative" (MIMI) Grant
- 25% - New Mission Start Congregations within the synod
- 25% - Micro Grants (small and medium sized grants to launch new ministries/programs or help grow existing ones, known as "Ministry Imagination Grants")
- 10% - Synod-initiated programs/projects, "Telling the story" (publicity to celebrate projects and successes), and administration of grants

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 or SAWC 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 RFAC 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 RFAC 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 ideas are offered to stimulate creativity and imagination, and are not meant as a restrictive list. All applications that honor the 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 may be submitted via the [Ministry Imagination Grant Application](#). Chrome browsers allow you to translate the application into most any language. Please apply in the language that's most comfortable for you and/or expresses your ministry best.

In the case that the applicant does not have a google account or cannot otherwise access the application form, email the following to l.farmer@mpls-synod.org with "Ministry Imagination Grant Application[Congregation Name]" in the subject line.

1. 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).

Grant Recipient Responsibilities:

- Submit the requested application following the guidelines above and respond to any RFAC 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 RFAC in advance. Unused funds must be returned to the Resurrection Fund and will be used for later Grants.
- 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.

Timeline:

- Applications will be received January 1 - February 1, 2026.
- Applicants will receive communication about RFAC's decision on their application by March 31, 2026.

- Disbursement of grants will occur by mid-April, 2026.
- Those awarded grants may be invited to share about their imagination/vision at Synod Assembly on May 1 - 2, 2026.

[Apply for a Ministry Imagination Grant](#)

For Questions: Please contact Liz Farmer, Assistant to the Bishop for Administration, l.farmer@mpls-synod.org