

**United Church of Christ
Western Reserve Association (WRA)
Congregational Vitality and Development Team (CVT)**

FUNDING APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Eligible Organizations: United Church of Christ congregations within the WRA.

Purpose and Activities: The CVT has the primary mission of planning for and development of new churches within the WRA. Also, it is charged with the task of providing financial support for the purpose of redefining the ministry of local congregations. CVT will consider funding requests for:

- ⊕ New Communities of Faith.
- ⊕ Congregational Renewal Projects.
- ⊕ Congregational Redevelopment Projects.

Funding requests that are of the greatest interest to the CVT will have some, or all, of the following characteristics:

- ⊕ New communities of faith projects.
- ⊕ Leadership support for new communities of faith and/or congregational renewal/redevelopment projects.
- ⊕ Projects that approach the situation or problem being addressed in an innovative and practical manner.
- ⊕ Projects that have specific measurable outcomes and a tangible ability to evaluate results and measure success.
- ⊕ Projects that strengthen the capacity of the local community of faith to solve problems or seize opportunities for growth in the future.
- ⊕ Projects that have identified potential for congregational support beyond the life of the grant.

Funding Levels: Funding requests sought through CVT may be for up to three years of support. Exceptions may be made for very unusual or special circumstances. First year grant awards range from \$3,000 to \$10,000. In the case of multi-year awards, funding is on a decreasing basis with funding levels in year's two and three at one-third less (e.g. Year 1-\$3,000, Year 2-\$2,000, Year 3-\$1,000).

Funding Request Submissions: funding requests may be at any time during the calendar year. Local congregations wishing to seek funds from CVT must complete the Funding Application Form.

**Western Reserve Association
Congregational Vitality Team**

Funding Proposal Application

Church Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Contact Person: _____

Title: _____ Telephone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Project must clearly show emphasis area in line with the Congregational Vitality Team's mission:

Project Category (check all that apply):

_____ New Communities of Faith

_____ Congregational Renewal

_____ Congregational Redevelopment

Purpose of grant: _____

Project Description: see attached

Timeline for project: _____

First year amount requested: _____

Are you asking for grants from other United Church of Christ sources? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please identify: _____

Project Description

1. **Church Life** Tell us about your church: (this is literally what you would say to someone who says, “tell me about your church.”)
2. **Vision** What is the written vision for your church? (How is your church distinctive? How can your church change lives? Why does your church matter?)
3. **Mission** What is the mission for your church? (How are you going to accomplish your vision? How are you going to build a Christian community?)
4. **Plan** Tell us about the plan to Revitalize/Renew/Redevelop your congregation.
5. **Demographic Research (www.missioninsite.com)** Please include a copy of the data. What does the demographic research show? Who are the potential members?
6. **Leadership Team:** Who are the members of your leadership team and what skill sets do they have to accomplish your goal? Include items such as faith journey, history with the current church, core values and experiences that will help you equip this church to revitalize.
7. **Church History:** Attendance, membership, giving, budget and expenses for the last 5 years.
8. **Tell us about your church facility:** When was it built? Is it accessible?
9. **Timelines and Benchmarks:** Provide goals for redevelopment/revitalization of your congregation. What metrics will you use to measure success?
10. **Budget** – what is the budget for the proposed timeline? Please include a detailed narrative budget for the next 5 years.
11. **Financial Stability:** How will you utilize grant funds? How will you offset declining grant funding? How will you raise new dollars in the future?
12. **Identify your coach.** (Someone who is specifically trained to work with congregations in their efforts to revitalize/redevelop.)