

Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Pandemic Support Grants

May 30, 2020

Background

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic could materially diminish income streams and threaten staffing and ministries across presbyteries, churches and camps, the Synod has identified approximately \$251,000 to date which can be used to support the staffing needs of affiliated organizations. \$104,000 of these funds were made available in the form of a new Pandemic Support Fund from revenue streams that would otherwise have supported the Synod's own personnel budget. It is intended that loan funds from the federal Paycheck Protection Program will enable the Synod to avoid staffing reductions itself.

Grants will be offered on the basis of need within three organizational segments:

- Churches whose vitality would be threatened by disruption to staffing and ministry programs;
- Churches and ministries in need which serve historically marginalized communities; and
- Camps, particularly as they seek to maintain programs staffed by college students.

Proposed Grant Programs

By setting aside normal sources of income, as well as collecting new contributions, and designating existing fund categories as appropriate, the Synod is funding three distinct grant programs to offer assistance to organizations and ministries in need of financial support during the pandemic. Grants within each program will be awarded within two award periods:

<u>Award Period</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Award Decision</u>	<u>Award Distribution</u>
Summer	June 30, 2020	July 15, 2020	July 30, 2020
Fall	August 31, 2020	September 15, 2020	September 30, 2020

1. Church Staffing and Ministry Support

Grants for Presbyteries to pass forward to individual churches whose vitality or critical ministries are threatened by financial impacts of the pandemic. Here, Presbyteries would apply for Synod grants that would be designated to benefit individual churches within two distinct deadline periods. Awards would be approved by majority vote of a special committee comprised of the Synod Executive and one voting member from each of the Budget & Finance, Strategic Service and Witness, and Transforming Communities Vital Leaders Committees. Grant amounts would be based on underlying needs of individual churches and the availability of funds allotted for consideration within each deadline period.

Individual grants would be for a maximum of \$10,000 or one month of a church's average operating costs. The receipt of a grant within the first deadline of consideration would not preclude the presbytery from submitting the same church for consideration in the second funding deadline.

Funding for this program will be from an allocation of monies available in specified designated accounts, including the Unrestricted Board of Pensions Dues Fund (3201), and the Pandemic Support Fund (2557). Any funding from the Pandemic Support Fund will be reserved for organizations that had not otherwise received federal support through the Paycheck Protection Program or another Cares Act program.

2. Church Staffing and Ministry Support in Historically Marginalized Communities

A discrete pool of funds within the overall pool of funds for church grants will be reserved for Presbyteries to pass forward to individual churches in historically marginalized communities whose vitality or critical ministries are threatened by financial impacts of the pandemic. Applications would be submitted by Presbyteries and endorsed by the Committee on Racial/Ethnic Ministries for approval within two distinct deadline periods in 2020. Awards would be approved by majority vote of a special committee comprised of the Synod Executive and one voting member from each of the Budget & Finance, Strategic Service and Witness, and Transforming Vital Leaders Committees. Grant amounts would be based on underlying needs of individual churches as well as the availability of grant funds allotted for consideration within each deadline period.

Individual grants would be for a maximum of \$10,000. The receipt of a grant within the first deadline of consideration would not preclude the presbytery from submitting the same church for consideration in the second funding deadline.

Funding for this program will be from an allocation of monies available in specified designated accounts, including the Reparative Ministries Fund (2085), the Pandemic Support Fund (2257), and the Temp Restricted CREM Fund (3425).

3. Camp Staffing and Programs

Grants for Presbyteries to pass forward to individual camps whose vitality is threatened by financial impacts of the pandemic. Here, Presbyteries would apply for Synod grants that would be designated to benefit individual camps. The Synod would approve grants from applications received by two distinct deadlines within 2020. Grant approvals and award amounts would be determined by vote of the Strategic Service and Witness Committee, and would be based on underlying needs of individual camps and the availability of grant funds allotted for consideration at each funding deadline.

Individual grants would be for a maximum of \$10,000. The receipt of a grant within the first deadline of consideration would not preclude the presbytery from submitting the same church for consideration in the second funding deadline.

Funding for this program will be from an allocation of monies available in the PH Income Fund for post-secondary education (2031) and the Black Fund (2044). Funds awarded to camps in the state of Iowa must minimally total and funds sourced from the Black Fund.

Identified Funding Sources

4/30/2020

		Balance at 1/01/2020	YTD Additions or Distrib. to/from Fund	Current Balance	YTD Unallocated Income or Expense	Projected Balance after Year-end
2031	PH Income (Post Sec Ed)- SSW	\$85,763	(\$41,069)	\$44,695	--	\$44,695
2044	Black Fund (Edu. in IA) - TCVL	\$18,408	\$1,028	\$19,436	--	\$19,436
2557	Pandemic Support Fund		\$104,000	\$104,000	--	\$104,000
2085	Reparative Ministries - CREM	\$3,736		\$3,736	--	\$3,736
3201	Unrestrict/BrdDesig BoP Dues	\$38,903		\$38,903		\$38,903
3425	Temp Restricted-CREM	\$40,641		\$40,641		\$40,641

Synod of Lakes and Prairies Pandemic Support for Churches 2020 Grant Request

The purpose of the Pandemic Support Program of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies is to provide grant funds to Presbyteries for distribution to individual churches as necessary for them to maintain payroll and community ministries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligibility for grant consideration will be limited to churches that have not separately received financial support through Federal CARES Act programs. Grant approval will be based on recipient needs and can equal a maximum of \$10,000 or one month of average operating costs per award period.

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- Summer Grant (submit by June 30, 2020)
 Fall Grant (submit by August 31, 2020)

Presbytery Making Request: _____

Recipient Church: _____

Grant Request (maximum of \$10,000 or 1 month of operating costs): _____

Explanation of Recipient's Need: _____

Certification of Need and Intended Use:

Current economic uncertainty makes the grant necessary in order for the recipient organization to support ongoing operations and critical community ministries. The funds will be used to retain workers and maintain critical community ministries in 2020.

Presbytery Executive or Stated Clerk

Date

Please email this request to jkoon@lakesandprairies.org along with a copy of the recipient's most recent financial statement and summary of 2019 payroll.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Pandemic Support for Churches in Historically Marginalized Communities 2020 Grant Request

The purpose of the Pandemic Support Program is to provide grant funds to Presbyteries that can be awarded to individual churches as necessary for maintaining payroll and community ministries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligibility for grant consideration will be limited to congregations serving in communities which have historically been marginalized and have not received separate direct financial support through Federal CARES Act programs. Grant approval will be based on recipient need and can equal up to \$10,000 per award period.

Summer Grant (submit by June 30, 2020)

Fall Grant (submit by August 31, 2020)

Recipient Church: _____

Grant Request (up to \$10,000): _____

Explanation of Recipient's Need: _____

Certification of Need and Intended Use:

Current economic uncertainty makes the grant necessary in order for the recipient organization to support ongoing operations and critical community ministries. The funds will be used to retain workers and maintain critical community ministries in 2020.

Presbytery Executive or Stated Clerk

Date

Concurrence:

Strategic Service and Witness Committee

Date

Please email this request to jkoon@lakesandprairies.org along with a copy of the recipient's most recent financial statement and summary of 2019 payroll.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies Grant Program for Camps 2020 Grant Request

The purpose of the Camp Grant Program of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies is to provide grant funds to Presbyteries for distribution to affiliated camps as necessary for them to maintain payroll and ministries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant approval will be based on recipient needs and can equal up to \$10,000/camp per award period.

This grant program will be funded by interest income designated for Higher Education programs and the Black Fund held in Synod designated funds. It is offered through the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for payroll and benefits related support.

Summer Grant (submit by June 30, 2020)

Fall Grant (Submit by August 31, 2020)

Presbytery Making Request: _____

Recipient Camp: _____

Grant Request (up to \$10,000): _____

Explanation of Recipient's Need: _____

Certification of Need and Intended Use:

Current economic uncertainty makes the grant necessary in order for the recipient organization to support ongoing operations and critical community ministries. The funds will be used to retain workers and maintain critical community ministries in 2020.

Presbytery Executive or Stated Clerk

Date

Please email this request to jkoon@lakesandprairies.org along with a copy of the recipient's most recent financial statement.