Church Consulting Grant
Risking in Ministry

THE CHALLENGE: The church will step out in faith to employ a church consultant or group that will help the church identify and implement its mission, vision, and values and/or go through an intentional process of transformation.

THE CONCEPT: The Visioning Team wants to encourage churches to engage the services of church consultants that will help congregations indentify and live into their mission, vision, and values and/or identify a transformation process. To that end, a grant of up to $2500 is offered to churches who employ an approved church consultant. The church, at the end of the entire process, will provide a written report of the process and results.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. The church will contract with a church consultant that must be approved by the Visioning Team. Churches are welcome to find their own consultant, but the Visioning Team will approve consultants on a case by case basis, to verify their legitimacy as an established and credible consultant or consulting group. A resource of pre-approved consultants is included with this application.

2. Each PGR Church is eligible for one grant of up to $2500, that cannot be received again for another five years.

3. The congregation receiving the grant must contribute at least 25% of the total consulting cost.

4. The contract with the consultant must be approved by Session.

5. The church must provide a written summary of the results of the consulting work of at least 1000 words to the Visioning Team and provide the final report issued by the consulting group.

THE PROCESS:

1. The simple application is located on the Mission page of the PGR website.

2. The project requires session approval.

3. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis as funds are available. Funds are dependent on Presbytery wide shared mission giving.

4. The consulting process must be implemented fully within one year following approval of the grant.

5. The Visioning Team or a Visioning Team subcommittee will read, evaluate and approve proposals. If you have any questions about the process or application, please contact the Visioning Team Moderator: Rev. Jonathan Warren at jwarren@firstpresjax.org and Carol Sleeth at cisleeth@comcast.net

6. The 1000 word summary of the consulting work must be submitted to the Visioning Team by the end of the year. If the consulting work is not finished, a preliminary report should be provided. The report should include the process that was followed during the consulting work, any applicable materials or handouts given to the church, the next steps for the church as determined by the Session, and what the perceived results of the process are.

Application
Church Consulting Grant
Presbytery of Great Rivers

Name of Congregation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Person(s): _____

Address: _____
STREET   CITY   STATE ZIP

Phone: _____
HOME   WORK   CELL

E-mail: _____

Amount Requested (up to $2500): _____

Who will be doing the Consulting Work: _____

Describe your reason for bringing in this particular consultant.

_____

_____

_____

What are your goals for the consulting work both short term and long term _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

How will you engage the entire congregation in this work? _____

_____

_____

Date of session approval of project _____

Please include a complete budget for the Consulting Work and how the church will pay for parts not covered by the grant.

Sample List of Approved Consultants

1. The 95Network http://www.95network.com/ cost- $5000 for a year-long process

95network was designed from the ground up to intentionally serve the 95% of churches in the United States that would be considered small or medium in size (based on average weekend attendance). We do not believe 'bigger is better.' Rather, we desire to help churches discover and realize who God has called them to be, wherever they may fall on the size chart.

We want to see churches find their own voice. In support of this vision, we share proven resources, develop relevant materials, and provide valuable connections that enable churches and their leaders to more fully realize their redemptive potential.

Our goal is to provide the 95% relevant access to the tools and resources they need at a price they can afford.

We have found many of the resources and materials available to pastors and church leaders are written at a mega/large-church level and are not necessarily practical for churches with fewer staff and more limited financial means.

The resources, tools and materials provided by 95network are geared specifically toward the smaller church.

2. The Ministry Architects https://ministryarchitects.com (costs vary)

Ministry Architects will help you build a sustainable, healthy ministry through the following principles:

Listening – Our process begins with an onsite ministry assessment. We'll make sure that your church's stakeholders feel heard and valued.

Questions – We'll suggest a few things and ask the right questions to make sure that we have the full picture of what your church needs.

Design – We'll design a strategic plan that honors your dreams and helps you to overcome your challenges. Along the way we'll make sure that the right systems are included to make sure that your ministry has a steady upward trajectory.

Construction – We'll walk with you through the month-by-month plan that was created during the onsite assessment. We'll help you move quickly, and we'll troubleshoot the surprises that seem to pop up during almost any project of this nature.

3. Center for Progressive Renewal http://www.progressiverenewal.org

The Center for Progressive Renewal seeks to renew Christianity by training entrepreneurial leaders, supporting the birth of new congregations, renewing and strengthening existing churches, and growing a network of progressive ministries that support and nourish each other and bring about a more just and generous world.

4. LEAD http://waytolead.org

LEAD's coaching process uses four Growth Indicators to guide congregations toward becoming communities that:

Listen to God, their neighbors and their own faith communities to respond to the needs of the neighborhood and the world.

Center with other Christian believers for worship and faith practices that renew, challenge and strengthen participants.

Explore by gathering people of all ages, backgrounds and beliefs to examine assumptions and learn from each other and the world around them.

Provide space for people to Connect to communities that believe in sincere hospitality and meaningful relationships and cross-generational community.

5. Laura Lincoln Consulting http://www.llincoln-consulting.com/index.html

Laura Lincoln, MA, MS is an Organizational Psychologist with extensive experience consulting with non-profits, churches, workplaces, and educational institutions across the United States and in Europe. Her particular areas of interest are in group decision-making, and in the many ways groups resist moving forward even when all parties say this is what they want.

Laura has been volunteer, employee, board member, executive director, minister, researcher, and professor. She knows very well the gifts and challenges of this non-profit, passion-driven world.

6. Rev. Stephen Hill –Organizational Relationship Systems Coach
309 N. 1st Ave. Morton, IL 61550 Phone: 217-433-4804 Email: revhill@hotmail.com

I have 35 years of pastoral leadership experience, several certifications in coaching and programs as well as a being a trained Transition Pastor for the last 6 years. It seems many churched today are wondering why people are not coming to their church? Every church is unique so the answer to the question is also unique. Following are the programs I use to help churches become transformational:

The WHY Discovery program is used by organizations to find clarity, unity, and peace. It has been used at the level of the U.S. Government, business, and not-for-profit organizations. The WHY website for more details is: www.knowyourwhy.com/why-discovery-workshop/. Holy Cow Church Assessment: This program will use "organizational intelligence" to assess where a church is so it knows what it needs to focus on in order to be transformational. Details can be found at: https://holycowconsulting.com