Presbytery of Great Rivers Mission Commission Grant (January 2026)

Contact the co-moderators of the Mission Commission with questions.
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Purpose of Commission: To promote and nurture the missional action of the Presbytery of Great Rivers

Responsibilities: Connection, Collaboration, and Support

Connection

- Develop and maintain skills/interest bank of people throughout the Presbytery and make it available to committees and congregations
- Connect congregations to PC(USA) and Synod of Lincoln Trails (SOLT) and other appropriate resources in support of congregational mission and witness [G-.0302]
- Collect and share stories of congregational mission within the presbytery
- Encourage, nurture, resource congregations in their efforts to spread good news, make disciples, offer hospitality

Collaboration

- Encourage collaboration among congregations and pastoral leaders for mission, social justice, and peacemaking, and facilitate communication among them
- Explore opportunities for mission partnerships between the presbytery and other agencies

Support

- Receive, review, and refine grant requests and make recommendations to the Leadership Council for disbursement
- Act on requests for grants and loans from presbytery funds
- Coordinate disposition of received external grants
- Support innovative, creative, and connectional congregational ministries that enhance the vitality of congregations and empower leaders. This support may include training, resources, grants, and accompaniment.

Grant Description

The Mission Commission is eager to fund initiatives that help fulfill the goals of the 2020 Vision Statement of the Presbytery of Great Rivers and/or the values of Matthew 25 goals as articulated by the Presbyterian Church (USA) Matthew 25 Congregations program. Programs considered for Grant funding include activities that transform, connect, support, spiritually engage, seek justice, resource, and/or focus the work of the Presbytery or the Matthew 25 congregational goals. For more details on the Presbytery of Great Rivers Vision Statement and the Matthew 25 values, please see **Appendix I**, which follows the grant application.

Grant Criteria

Mission Grants will be awarded to initiatives with substantial involvement in or leadership by Presbytery of Great Rivers members and affiliated institutions. Grants may be used to fund the programmatic costs of the proposed initiative. The grant may not be used for capital expenses or endowments. Grant recipients are eligible to reapply annually for funding to support ongoing initiatives. Grant renewals will not be considered without completed program reports submitted at the conclusion of each annual grant cycle.

How to Apply

We encourage you to read the Presbytery's 2020 Vision Statement and the Matthew 25 values found in **Appendix I** before completing this application. If you believe your initiative helps fulfill one or more of our mission goals, we encourage you to apply!

A complete Grant application will include the following items:

1. Completed Application Form
2. Official Endorsement Letter
3. Proposal Narrative (between 1-3 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font)
4. Line-item budget

Applications received without <u>all</u> of the items above will be returned for completion. Each required item is discussed in greater detail below.

Required Application Materials

Completed Grant Application Form

Please fill out the grant application form below, which provides the Mission Commission with information about the program and the individuals who are responsible for overseeing a grant award.

Official Endorsement Letter

The proposal must be accompanied by a signed letter from the grant seekers' governing body. This should take the form of endorsement from a congregation's session or from a board of directors and accompany the completed proposal.

Proposal Narrative

Please prepare a proposal narrative no longer than 3 pages (single-spaced, 12 pt. font) that addresses the questions below.

1. **Title of Initiative and Brief Summary**: Provide a title for your initiative and include a brief (one paragraph) summary of your initiative. Please also include a list of any partners participating in the initiative.
2. **Purpose and Activities**: Please list which goals of the 2020 Visioning Statement and/or Matthew 25 values your proposed initiative helps achieve. What specific activities will help you achieve your stated purpose?
3. **Outcomes:** If your proposal outlines a new initiative, what outcomes do you hope for? If this is a continuation of an existing program, what are the outcomes so far?
4. **Sustainability Plan:** If this is an initiative that is anticipated to continue beyond one year, what efforts do you hope to undertake to sustain the initiative, both programmatically and financially?

Budget

Please prepare a line-item budget for the activities described in the proposal narrative and include this with your application. A sample budget template is included in **Appendix III**.

Instructions for Submitting Proposal Materials

All proposal materials should be submitted in one email to PGRMission@greatriverspby.org with "Mission Grant Application" in the subject line, or sent by mail to:

Presbytery of Great Rivers
Attn: Mission Commission
3601 N Sheridan Rd.
Peoria, IL 61604

Grants will be reviewed and funds disbursed on a rolling basis at quarterly Mission Commission meetings. Early applications are encouraged to ensure that the commission can review proposal materials before the program launch, and to ensure that adequate funds are available. Incomplete applications will be returned for completion.

Program Reporting Requirements

We want to know how things went! We request that a program report be submitted to the Mission Commission by email to PGRMission@greatriverspby.org with "Mission Grant Program Report" in the subject heading or by mail at the address listed above. Program reports should be submitted no later than January 31 of the year following which the grant was received, unless an alternative arrangement has been approved by the Mission Commission. Program reporting guidelines are included as **Appendix II** of this document.

Mission Grant Application Form

General Information

Program/Initiative Title:
Amount of Grant Funding requested:

Person Responsible for Overseeing Program/Initiative

Contact Name and Title:
Organization:
Address:
Phone Number:
E-mail Address:

Grant Payments Should be Mailed To

Contact Name and Title:
Organization:
Address:
Phone Number:
E-mail Address:

Person Responsible for Preparing and Submitting Program Reports

Contact Name and Title:
Organization:
Address:
Phone Number:
E-mail Address:

Presbytery of Great Rivers or Community Partner(s), if applicable

Contact Name and Title: Organization:
Address:
Phone Number:
E-mail Address:

Checklist of Required Application Materials

- ☐ Completed Application Form (page 4)
- ☐ Official Endorsement Letter
- ☐ Proposal Narrative (between 1-3 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font)
- ☐ Line-item budget

Appendix I: 2020 Presbytery of Great Rivers Vision Statement and Matthew 25 Values

Presbytery of Great Rivers 2020 Vision Statement

We are followers of Christ. We are a community of congregations and ministries bound together by God's love. We are humans who journey through blessing and brokenness, striving to be faithful, in need of connection and community, grace and repair, guidance and support, affirmation and encouragement, solidarity and celebration. We have faith that we have each been gifted and charged to a specific work of ministry in our particular time and place, the kind of work that changes lives. We are a people who accept that the ministry landscape is changing, and that we need each other, and we affirm that God is with us and at work in our midst. We are a body that tries to live faithfully together through covenants rooted in our love for one another and a polity that seeks to foster accountability to our promises to each other, a polity we have the collective power to change as needed.

Our aspirations:

TRANSFORM We aspire to change, to grieve and to let go, to ask new questions, to challenge old assumptions, to seek joy, and to build different structures that more closely align with our mission. We aspire to make space for new partners, to assist each other with how we may fit into new realities where we may be unsure. We want to move into a new future together.

CONNECT We aspire to be together, connected, and connecting, to each other and God. We aspire to keep relationships first and to encourage collaborative ministry. We desire the presbytery to meet us where we are. We want to contribute where we can make a difference.

SUPPORT We aspire to support one another personally, professionally, and holistically, to build each other up, to bear one another's burdens, to create space for mutuality, solidarity, and support. We aspire to listen.

SPIRITUALLY ENGAGE We aspire to be spiritually overflowing and worshipfully engaged. We want to be inspired and to share that inspiration. We want to glorify God above all and recognize the divine in our midst, manifest in the multitude of gifts around us, filling every space in our Presbytery. We aspire to have intentional moments of prayer for each other.

SEEK JUSTICE We aspire to accept and bless the range of identities in our midst, to embrace the leadership of peoples long silenced, so we may challenge each other and be enriched by the unique perspectives of others. We aspire to repair, reorient, rearrange, or reject what we must in order to build the "Kin-dom" of God on earth as it is in heaven.

RESOURCE We aspire to be resourced and resourcing, to teach and to learn, as we respond to the unique challenges of today. We want spaces to reflect on our effectiveness and sharpen our discipleship, attentive to our heads, our hearts, and our bodies. We want to be strengthened, trained, and equipped for 21st-century ministry in our local contexts.

FOCUS We aspire to rally around a unifying missional focus by uniting around our Matthew 25 identity, centering the needs of the people as if we were serving Jesus himself. We want to be a meaningful presence in our communities and honor Christ's Great Commission.

Presbyterian Church (USA) Matthew 25 Values

For more information on the Presbyterian Church (USA) Matthew 25 Congregations program, visit the Presbyterian Mission resource page. The following information can be found in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Matthew 25 Introduction Brochure:

"The themes of the Matthew 25 invitation are grounded in the gospel. Jesus calls us to serve with and for "the least of these" — not as a group to be pitied, but as people who are deeply loved by Jesus. There are already PC(USA) congregations that identify themselves as Matthew 25 churches. We aim to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with mid councils and congregations to help them embrace one or more of these three focuses:

- Building congregational vitality by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their Community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, Plans, and structures in our society that perpetuate the economic exploitation of poor people.

Appendix II: Mission Grant Program Reporting Guidelines

We want to know how things went! We request that a program report be submitted to the Mission Commission by email at PGRMission@greatriverspby.org with "Mission Grant Program Report" included in the subject line. **Program reports should be submitted no later than January 31 of the following year in which the grant was received, unless the Mission Commission has approved an alternative arrangement.** Program reports help us manage the outcomes of our work as a Mission Commission, as well as help grant recipients learn from their work. Reports should be a minimum of one page and not to exceed 3 pages (single-spaced, 12 pt. font). Include the program/initiative name and answer the following questions in narrative format. Photos or videos are encouraged!

Matthew 25 Program Aims and Purposes

What are the key aims of your grant program? How were the aims sharpened, changed, or enhanced during the first year of planning and activity? How do these aims advance the mission of your institution?

1. Grant Activities
   What key activities did you undertake in the last year? What activities advanced the initiatives or intent to meet the goals of the Presbytery of Great Rivers 2020 Visioning Statement?

2. Grant Accomplishments and Learnings
   What were the program's most important accomplishments? (Identify two or three.) What are the most significant insights or discoveries? What surprises you? What lessons from this past year are worth sharing with others?

3. Sustainability and Partnerships
   Who are your partners beyond your own institution? Describe how your partnership relationships are developing and working. If applicable, what is your plan for sustaining your program long term?

Appendix III: Sample Line-Item Budget

INCOME
- Mission Grant
- Other Funding Sources (if applicable)
- Total Income:

EXPENSES
- Include a detailed list of expected initiative expenses
- Total Expenses: