



## Memo

**TO:** Presbytery Grant Applicants  
**FROM:** Presbytery Council  
**SUBJECT:** Church Partnership Grant Packet

Indian Nations Presbytery is delighted to offer a variety of grants and scholarships to support the presbytery's strategy for transformation. Church Partnership Grants provide supplemental, short-term, and start-up funding for new congregations and transforming congregations.

### **USE THE ATTACHED FORM TO APPLY FOR CHURCH PARTNERSHIP FUNDS.**

**CHURCH PARTNERSHIP FUNDS** provide assistance for new and existing congregations.

- a) ***New Congregation:*** New church development is the establishment of a new ministry. A new congregation develops in partnership with one or more congregations and the presbytery as a response to the needs of a new group of persons (emerging generation, new immigrant group, population growth). The ultimate goal is to grow a viable, sustained and significant ministry within the life of the presbytery, which may lead to a chartered congregation.
- b) ***Existing Congregation:*** Transformation of an existing congregation is the redirection of its ministry in light of significant changes among its membership, the community to be served, or both. Transformation involves disrupting the current cycle of a congregation's life in order to embrace a renewed and sustained ministry.

Partnership funds are ***not*** available for acquisition of capital assets. The presbytery will consider requests to provide supplemental funding for pastoral leadership (1) while congregations intentionally seek to redirect their ministry and (2) while churches bring pastoral compensation in line with presbytery minimums. Partnership funds may be requested for one year or for multiple years. Multiple year grants ordinarily are disbursed on a declining scale. ***Commitments for funding in multiple years require presbytery approval.*** Grant recipients will provide progress reports as requested by presbytery council (at least annually).

### **Denominational Resources**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offers a variety of mission program grants. Information and application forms are available at [www.pcusa.org/missionprogramgrants](http://www.pcusa.org/missionprogramgrants). **If you are applying for a mission program grant through PC(USA), there is no need to complete a separate presbytery application form. The PC(USA) form is the only form required.**

Application forms for presbytery grants and scholarships are available online at [www.okinp.org](http://www.okinp.org). Please call the presbytery office if you need assistance with this application or have questions about financial resources for congregational mission.

**INDIAN NATIONS PRESBYTERY**  
**Application for Church Partnership Funds**

Date Prepared \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Funding Period (When are funds needed?) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of financial support requested from presbytery \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor/Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of Session/Additional Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Members of Session/Steering Committee \_\_\_\_\_

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**Instructions:** In narrative form, please respond to the following. Use additional sheets as necessary.

1. **Vision** for the proposal.
2. **Demographic information:** Summary of information about target group (not to exceed one page).
3. **Ministry Plan:** Describe the plan for the project, including any key events/programs.
4. **Goals & Objectives:** Describe way results will be measured.
5. **Income & Expense Budget:** Display projected (balanced) income and expense; identify source of funds. Projects are expected to be self-sustaining at the end of funding period.
6. **Insurance Coverage:** Attach copy of rider showing appropriate insurance coverage.
7. **How does this project relate to presbytery strategic priorities?**
8. **Oversight of Project:** Describe how presbytery will provide encouragement and assist with evaluation of this project.

Please send application to  
Indian Nations Presbytery  
1001 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 206  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106-5640  
E-mail to [info@okinp.org](mailto:info@okinp.org) • FAX (405) 524-1037

*Applications require committee on ministry endorsement and council action, so please allow sufficient time to process your request. Commitments for funding in multiple years require presbytery approval.*

*Recipients will complete a report for presbytery at least annually and at the end of the project.*

**Church Membership** (for the last five years)

Year _____	Year _____	Year _____	Year _____	Year _____

**Average Worship Attendance** (for the last five years)

Year _____	Year _____	Year _____	Year _____	Year _____

**Church Giving Information**

Number of possible giving units in church \_\_\_\_\_ Number that actually give \_\_\_\_\_  
 Average giving \_\_\_\_\_ Average age of membership \_\_\_\_\_ years (ten-year range)

**Annual Church Budget** (for the last five years)

Year _____	Year _____	Year _____	Year _____	Year _____

**Giving to Presbytery and Presbyterian Causes** (for the last five years)

Year _____	Year _____	Year _____	Year _____	Year _____

**Session (or Steering Committee) Action**

*Please indicate session action below. (If proposal is for a new church development, indicate steering committee action.)*

The foregoing application was reviewed and approved on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).  
 Amount of financial support requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee on Ministry Endorsement**

*Please indicate committee action below. Attach additional sheets as needed.*

The foregoing application was reviewed and approved on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).  
 Amount of financial support recommended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please note any concerns/conditions affecting this application. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Indian Nations Presbytery**

Council action \_\_\_\_\_ Amount approved \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATIONS: WHAT IS VISION?

**Vision for the project:** five to eight sentences of what you want this project to be in three to five years

What is Vision?

One definition of vision comes from Burt Nanus, a well-known expert on the subject. Nanus defines a vision as a **realistic, credible, attractive future for [an] organization or project**. Let's dissect this definition:

**Realistic:** A vision must be based in reality to be meaningful. For example, if you're developing a vision for a computer software company that has carved out a small niche in the market developing instructional software and has a 1.5 percent share of the computer software market, a vision to overtake Microsoft and dominate the software market is not realistic!

**Credible:** A vision must be believable to be relevant. To whom must a vision be credible? Most importantly, to the employees or members of the organization. If the members of the organization do not find the vision credible, it will not be meaningful or serve a useful purpose. One of the purposes of a vision is to inspire those in the organization to achieve a level of excellence, and to provide purpose and direction for the work of those employees. A vision which is not credible will accomplish neither of these ends.

**Attractive:** If a vision is going to inspire and motivate those in the organization, it must be attractive. People must want to be part of this future that's envisioned for the organization.

**Future:** A vision is not in the present, it is in the future. In this respect, the image of the leader gazing off into the distance to formulate a vision may not be a bad one. A vision is not where you are now, it's where you want to be in the future.

Another has said Vision is based on the basic question **"Why do we do what we do at all?"**

Vision has been defined as "the future position and value of the organization". It doesn't matter whether the organization is a business, church, or some activity within. Another has said Vision should be a clear, challenging picture of what we want to be in the future – usually three to five years.

A vision statement should be stated in the present tense, articulate the core values, paint a picture of the ideal, and describe the optimum goals to be reached. Vision statements need to be concise – usually five to eight sentences and should provide direction and the basis for decision-making. A clear vision should result in an alignment of efforts so that all can move in the same direction toward the same goal.



## **STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMATION**

Indian Nations Presbytery adopted the following core values and priority goals in June 2004. These recommendations go beyond reorganization and move the presbytery toward the spiritual dynamics of **Transformation and Revitalization**.

### **CORE VALUES**

1. To pursue the Great Commission, “to go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you,” in a way that affirms both justice and evangelism as essential to Christian witness.
2. To honor the Sovereignty of God in all area of our lives and our life together.
3. To be an inclusive and diverse community united by our common commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord.
4. To develop healthy congregations as the primary place where disciples are made, so that Christ’s ministry flows into the world.
5. To encourage mutual accountability between clergy and laity and between congregations and the presbytery.
6. To respond to the needs of Christ’s world by being faithful stewards of all God’s gifts.
7. To be willing to surrender some of our autonomy, in order to build a vibrant, enthusiastic community, investing ourselves so that all become stronger than any of the parts

### **PRIORITY GOALS**

1. To discover our common ground in the Gospel and to design our life and work in presbytery so that we become a community of mutual support for clergy, lay leaders and congregations through:
  - Presbytery meetings which give priority to worship, story sharing, and mutual exploration of areas for corporate spiritual growth.
  - A collaborative work environment of mutual trust and respect, in which we learn to engage in positive dialogue in areas where we differ.
  - Cluster meetings where mutual learning and support are encouraged.
2. To regain the initiative in supporting the revitalization of congregations which are committed to reversing a pattern of decline and to initiate the planting of new congregations so both might reclaim a healthy understanding and approach to evangelism.
3. To support sessions and congregational leaders who are seeking transformation both in their personal lives and in the corporate life of their congregation; i.e. those seeking to move from the membership business into the discipling business; from the “education of” to the “formation of” Christians.
4. To aggressively seek out and/or develop quality pastoral leadership for local congregations through utilization of commissioned lay pastors, tent-making pastors, intentional interim pastors, healthy inquirers and candidates, and installed pastors.
5. Where appropriate, provide resources and leadership training to congregations seeking to become multicultural, seeking to reach the younger generations, and seeking to use the Internet for communication and education.
6. To engage in ecumenical and interfaith cooperation in ministry to expand outreach to address community needs wherever possible and appropriate.

# CHECKLIST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

## APPLICATION FORM

- Application form is complete and all additional information is attached.
- Application has been approved by the session (and other organizations, as appropriate), signed and dated. **Applications for partnership funds require endorsement by the committee on ministry before submitting the form to council.**
- Application form is consistent with the type of grant requested.

**CHURCH PARTNERSHIP FUNDS** provide assistance for new and existing congregations.

- a) **New Congregation:** New church development is the establishment of a new ministry. A new congregation develops in partnership with one or more congregations and the presbytery as a response to the needs of a new group of persons (emerging generation, new immigrant group, population growth). The ultimate goal is to grow a viable, sustained and significant ministry within the life of the presbytery, which may lead to a chartered congregation.
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**PROJECT GRANTS** provide one-time funding (seed money) to a ministry sponsored by a congregation or a group of congregations. By definition, a "project" is a proposal for a new mission venture that is consistent with

- a) the church's mission plan and
- b) the presbytery's core values and priority goals.

Project grants are designed to encourage creativity and flexibility in meeting specific mission needs. Proposals that qualify for project funding include, but are not limited to, activities designed to address specific community needs; workshops, educational events and retreats designed to equip church leaders for mission; events that promote missional relationships; and mission work trips.

Project grants are **not** available for acquisition of capital assets, funding a church's continuing ministry, or providing staff support (beyond seed money for a new venture).

- Amount requested is consistent with the type of grant requested.

**Grant Funding Amounts:** A new or existing congregation project may normally receive a cumulative grant amount of no more than \$100,000 from any combination of presbytery mission grants; congregation-based ministry projects may receive a maximum one-time grant of up to \$50,000. (Council is authorized to award grants up to \$10,000. Grant applications in excess of \$10,000, with council endorsement, will be referred to presbytery for final approval.)

**NARRATIVE INFORMATION is attached and complete.**

- Vision** for the proposal.
- Demographic information:** Summary of information about target group (not to exceed one page).
- Ministry Plan:** Describe the plan for the project, including any key events/programs.

- Goals & Objectives:** Describe way results will be measured.
- Income & Expense Budget:** Display projected (balanced) income and expense; identify source of funds. Projects are expected to be self-sustaining at the end of funding period. If the church's budget is not included, the application will be returned.
- Insurance Coverage:** Attach copy of rider showing appropriate insurance coverage.
- How does this project relate to presbytery strategic priorities?**
- Oversight of Project:** Describe how presbytery will provide encouragement and assist with evaluation of this project.
  
- If the proposal qualifies for a GA Mission Program Grant, applicant must use the appropriate GA Mission Program Grant form. (Presbytery matching funds are required.)**

## **PROPOSAL CRITERIA**

### **The Ministry Plan Should:**

- Represent new work in one or more of the following areas: new church development, congregational transformation, specific mission projects, and congregational-based ministries of compassion, justice and evangelism.
- Demonstrate its commitment to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Relate to the life and development of the surrounding community and respond, within the context of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to human needs not otherwise being adequately met.
- Involve ecumenical and denominational partners in planning and funding the project, as appropriate and feasible.

### **The Program Operating Income and Expense Budget for the Project Should:**

- Include balanced line item operating income and expense budgets for each year of the grant funding period. The budgets are to include income amounts from presbytery, synod, GA and other sources.
- Include the previous year's financial statement, if available, displaying the budgeted and actual program operating income and expenditures.
- Display contribution from its total operating budget to basic mission support. (Priority will be given to churches that contribute at least 10% of operating budgets to basic mission support, or that present a plan for achieving that goal by the end of the funding period.) Basic mission support is the total of all moneys given to presbytery, synod and GA entities, including payments toward the budgets of these entities. Included in this total are special offerings, such as Christmas Joy Offering, Disaster Relief, Hunger, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking Offering, Pentecost Offering, Women's Thank Offering, per capita and others.
- Describe how the project will continue to be financially supported following the termination of the grant.