

Faith In Action Grant Program

“Faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead.” –James 2:17

The Presbytery of Detroit has been given an anonymous gift of \$350,000 to be used for mission by congregations and their mission partners within the Presbytery. The goal is for all of the money to be disbursed in about a year’s time. This program aims to 1) incubate new types of mission work, 2) energize new and existing mission initiatives to achieve new levels of faith in action, and 3) respond to mission requests that need urgent attention. The intent is not to fund day-to-day operations or support an existing operating budget.

The work group has determined that the grant program will have two phases. The first phase will disburse many smaller amounts of money and in the second phase larger amounts of funding will be available. The second phase will be launched in further detail in June 2018.

In Phase I, grants of up to \$1,000 will be made available for the first 30 congregations to respond with the following criteria by email between March 1 – 31 (please do not send applications before March 1, 2018):

- The project must be “hands-on”. I.e., the church should not simply pass this money through to another organization, but use it to encourage their members to put faith into action.
- Send us 2-3 sentences that answer the questions: How does your church hope to impact your community? Who do you hope to serve? How are you going to do it? What is the hoped for outcome?
- How much money do you need (up to \$1000)?
- A copy of minutes of session approval of grant application.

This money will be sent to the congregation in May and must be used by October 1, 2018. For accountability, to share the good news about what our Presbytery is doing, and to inspire one another, each church receiving a Phase I grant will be required to send back a photo, quote, and/or short narrative about how the money was spent.

It was our desire to make this first phase fairly accessible and easy to apply for by congregations. As long as you meet the criteria and are one of the first 30 to apply, your grant will be accepted. Examples of projects that were generated at the January 2018 Presbytery meeting will be made available. If you need more assistance developing projects please contact the work group.

Contact: faithinaction@detroitpresbytery.org

With a joyful hope of new possibilities,

The Faith in Action Work Group
Rev. Julie Delezenne, Chair, Warren First
Elder Martha Blenman, Birmingham First
Elder Bob Ponder, Fort Street
Rev. Fernando Rodriguez, Kirk in the Hills
Rev. Jacqueline Spycher, Northbrook



Faith in Action



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Ideas for Mission

Generated by members of the presbytery at the January 23, 2018 meeting

Children and Youth

- Local tutoring
- Creating a scholarship program
- Camp scholarships
- Ask local teachers about their needs
- Clean or tidy a local school or classroom
- School supply drive
- Provide support for children aging out of the foster care program
- Support a baby basics program
- Create or improve a youth library
- Create a mentoring program
- Summer reading program for children
- Eye glasses for school kids (testing and distribution)
- Take inner city youth to Howell Nature Center
- Latch key program before and after school
- Community day care
- Anti-bullying seminars for schools

Construction

- Build a wheelchair ramp or lift for a home or church
- Rehab a house
- Minor home repair for seniors or low income families
- Start a lending library of tools for your neighborhood

Educational Opportunities

- Host a grief counseling group
- Host a financial planning class
- Host a cooking class for recent widows
- Create a step by step process of talk about faith and sharing faith stories
- Sponsor a law clinic or immigration support
- Have a healthy eating class
- Have exercise classes
- Sponsor language classes for immigrant women
- Offer a workshop on running for office
- Offer healing yoga
- Healthy marriage workshop
- Drumming workshop with youth who've experienced trauma
- Life skills seminars

Elderly Populations

- Working with a local elder care facility
- Make and distribute warming shawls
- Free fellowship lunch for seniors
- Locate resources for senior assistance

Hunger and Feeding

- Free neighborhood meal or picnic
- Expand feeding program
- Meal and fellowship program for young families
- Summer meals for school age kids who qualify for free or reduced school lunches
- Weekend food backpacks
- Start a “Little Food Pantry” box
- Feed the homeless
- Food baskets

Other

- Interfaith partnering
- Expand or create a community garden
- Offer a bicycle repair ministry
- Social media outreach
- Host a neighborhood coffeehouse night
- Host a concert
- Host a listening event (www.urbanconfessional.org)

Poverty Alleviation

- Fund a utility assistance program
- Start of clothing closet
- Collecting hands, gloves, and socks
- Women’s sanitary products drive for a shelter

Working with Specific Populations

- Support for first responders
- Sponsor something to support Puerto Rico
- Look for ways to support single parents (babysitting, night out, creating a network)
- Ministry for non-profit workers with compassion fatigue
- Host an immigrant women’s group
- Help support foster parents
- Bringing together refugees at the Howell Nature Center
- Reach out to Nones and Dones
- Parent support group

Worship

- Creative mid-week worship service
- Host an interfaith or ecumenical service
- Host a worship service at the Second Mile Center