



Strengthen the Church (STC) Youth Ministry Grants

Purpose of the Fund:

The **Strengthen the Church** All-Church Offering is one of four special offerings, in addition to *Our Church's Wider Mission (Basic Support)*, in which each local church is encouraged to participate. The New Hampshire Conference retains 50% of the **Strengthen the Church** offering received for use within the conference.

This fund was established to grow the United Church of Christ's future by initiatives that promote growth and renewal. All gifts are directed to activities and programs of both the church's local conference as well as the UCC's national ministries.

Youth Ministry Grant applications are reviewed and grants are awarded by the New Hampshire Conference's Local Church Support Ministry.

Disbursement of Funds in the New Hampshire Conference

Given our increased passion for developing and nurturing youth programs/programming in the New Hampshire Conference, for the next three years (2017-2020) these funds will be directed toward this type of programming. We believe, at this time, this is one of the areas offering the greatest potential for strengthening our church throughout the Conference, as well as strengthening local churches or associations.

In order to diversify how the funds can be used and provide equitable distribution, proposals may be made for programs and events of any size, including but not limited to the following examples:

- Helping to underwrite the expenses of sending a delegation of New Hampshire youth to the UCC National Youth Event.
- Funding regional (Association) youth events that gather youth from nearby churches to help build unity and identity.
- Providing financial assistance to individual churches for the development of youth ministry programs and funding of special youth initiatives and programs.
- Funding programming to gather youth from the entire New Hampshire Conference to help build unity and identity.

Application Procedure

Churches and/or sponsoring organizations shall make application for grants from this fund to the Conference Minister at the address below. It is recommended that requests for funding be submitted at least sixty (60) days prior to the date when funds are needed. A letter of application will include the following information:

1. Dates of the program/event;
2. Goals in presenting/participating this program/event;
3. Itemized statement of the anticipated costs;
4. Report of funding already available through other organizational, church funds or participants; and
5. Amount requested from the Strengthen the Church Fund.

Conditions for Awarding the Grant

- An individual or local church shall be responsible for at least one-third (1/3) of the costs of said program/event;
- A sponsoring body shall receive no more than one grant from Strengthen the Church funds in a two-year period.

Final Report to Fund

Churches and/or organizing bodies who receive Strengthen the Church Youth Ministry Grants are required to submit a written report to the Conference Minister within three (3) months after the event/program. These will be shared with the Local Church Support Ministry. It is understood that the recipient may be asked for permission to share this report more broadly through various communication vehicles of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ.

Acceptance of the fund check constitutes agreement with the above conditions.

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