

Date of Application: _____

Support for Small Churches Application

Note: Congregations may apply for up to \$2500.

Every year the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ makes funds available to small churches to support their ministries. In previous years funds have been used to help pay for heating the church, to help start a Sunday School or to jumpstart a youth mission program. Small churches are encouraged to apply for help to enable them to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Listed here are the requirements for seeking these funds.

The church must certify that at least two of the following criteria are met:

This congregation is the only "Mainline" Protestant* congregation serving this community.

We can demonstrate a potential for church growth in the community.

We can demonstrate that, after a stewardship drive, there is still a need for financial assistance.

If assistance is granted the congregation will agree to the following covenant:

- 1) That members from this congregation will participate actively in the life of the Association and the Conference.
- 2) That members from this congregation will include a commitment to Our Church's Wider Mission within its budget.
- 3) That members from this congregation will call a minister and/or interim minister in consultation with the NH Conference should a vacancy occur during the year in which assistance is given.
- 4) That the church will participate in a NH Conference sponsored stewardship education event, such as Prepared to Serve, and use such training to conduct a carefully designed stewardship program.

The _____ Church
in _____, New Hampshire requests assistance from The New
Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ, in the amount of \$_____ for support of its
ministry during the year_____.

We certify that we meet at least two of the following three criteria (please check):

_____ The congregation is the only "mainline" Protestant congregation* in our
community.

_____ We can demonstrate that a potential for church growth exists in our community.

_____ We can demonstrate that after a stewardship drive, there still exists a need for
financial assistance.

**The phrase "mainline Protestant congregation" traditionally has referred to such bodies as the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, the American Baptist Churches, the United Presbyterian Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

COVENANT

If assistance is granted, we agree that:

1. Members from this congregation will participate actively in the life of the Association and the Conference.
2. The Church will include a commitment to Our Church’s Wider Mission within its budget.
3. Members of this congregation will call a minister and/or interim minister in consultation with the NH Conference should a vacancy occur during the year in which assistance is given.
4. Members of this congregation will participate in stewardship and/or other education events such as Prepared to Serve.

This application was approved by the Church governing body on _____20__.

Signature of Moderator or Treasurer

Indicate names and offices of others involved in preparing this application and indicate the name, address, phone, and email address of a contact person.

Please submit a copy of your church budget for the current year and a letter detailing the following:

1. A description of the ministry of your church. The statement might include things such as growth potential, challenges, mission programs and outreach to the community, and anything unique or distinctive about your congregation.
2. A description of your stewardship campaign and stewardship training (already received or planned).
3. A brief description of the way your church participates in the Association and Conference.
4. A brief statement indicating the amount of money you are requesting, the reasons for the request, and the way you plan to inform the congregation if you do receive a grant.

Return to:
Attention: Local Church Support Ministry
New Hampshire Conference, UCC
140 Sheep David Road
Pembroke, NH 03275-3711

*Approved by New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ Board of Directors
February 06, 2021*