



# Covenant Fund

## FUNDING CREATIVE MINISTRIES

### GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FOR THE COVENANT FUND

**The Covenant Fund** launches annually each spring and uses dollars from restricted funds to spark new initiatives, collaborative ministries, and/or expansions of already-existing efforts as congregations within the Presbytery of Philadelphia. **The Commission on Resources and Creative Ministries has discerned once again to offer the Covenant Fund in two waves for this year's grant program.** The intent is to respond both to those applicants who are ready and in need of more immediate funds as we well as to those who need more time to discern faithful ministry in this time of great uncertainty and possibility. *Applicants can only apply for one wave.*

#### Wave 1

- Apply for up to \$15,000 worth of funding for creative and adaptive ministries.
- **Deadline: June 7, 2024**

#### Wave 2

- Apply for up to \$15,000 worth of funding for creative and adaptive ministries.
- **Deadline: August 2, 2024**

#### APPLICATION CRITERIA & PROCESS:

- The Covenant Fund Launch date: **April 5, 2024**
- Maximum amount granted: \$15,000.
- Applications must be a church/entity or multi-church/entity initiative. Churches/entities wishing to request Covenant Fund support for initiatives must contribute to per capita and general mission payments.
- Grant applications must be authorized by the session of a congregation, a council of the Presbytery, and/or approved leadership body. Preference will be given to those applications that include supporting funds from the church/entity.
- New initiative proposals will be considered for only three consecutive years. Applications must be submitted each year, with each subsequent year potentially declining in award amount to demonstrate progress in new funding partners and self-sustaining financial models.
- Only mission or ministry programs will be considered – no capital expenditures or church budget support.
- New initiative proposals must include budget, measurable goals, built-in evaluation process, and defined outcomes.
- Applicants will be assigned a liaison from the Commission on Resources and Creative Ministries to assist in the application process and follow-up on ministry initiative should the grant be awarded to the applicant.
- A Covenant Fund Grant Review Cohort, consisting of leadership from various Presbytery commissions, Presbytery Leadership Collegium, and Presbytery's Executive Staff will review and evaluate all proposals.
- Funds will be distributed to recipients of Covenant Fund Grants on receipt of agreement letters.
- **For application questions and to submit applications: [databaseadministrator@presbyphl.org](mailto:databaseadministrator@presbyphl.org)**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR COVENANT FUND GRANT APPLICANTS:**

1. Ministry Narrative
2. Budget and Financial Narrative
3. Letter of endorsement from Clerk of Session or Regional Commission Convener

**IDENTIFICATION:**

**Title of Ministry/Project/Program:**

**Name of Church (group, organization):**

**Address:**

**City/State/ZIP:**

**Telephone:**

**Email address:**

**\*Primary Contact Person:**

**Position/Title:**

**Telephone:**

**Email address:**

**\*Secondary Contact Person:**

**Position/Title:**

**Telephone:**

**Email address:**

*\*If contact changes, please contact us at [databaseadministrator@presbyphl.org](mailto:databaseadministrator@presbyphl.org)*

**Amount Requested: \$**

**Is this proposal a New Initiative (Yes or \*No):**

*\*If existing, how long has this ministry/mission existed, and what is new about this proposal?*

**Have you been the recipient of a \*previous Covenant Fund Grant?**

*\*If yes, how many years previous?*

**PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING RELATED TO YOUR INITIATIVE EITHER ON-LINE OR ON A SEPARATE PAGE TYPED.**

1. Describe the context that your ministry will engage. (up to 250 words)
2. What is your proposed ministry? Please share with us the following: (up to 500 words)
  - a. How was this ministry imagined and discerned as a vital response to your community context?
  - b. What was the process for assessing this as a potential need in your community?
  - c. Who are some of your consulted thought partners as you developed this initiative?
  - d. What is the plan to launch the necessary leadership efforts for this ministry, whether within the congregation or beyond?
3. What Scripture reference(s) and/or biblical story shapes the vision of this ministry as you lean into your particular witness to the gospel? (up to 250 words)
4. Describe the goals of your new ministry plan; short term and long term.(up to 250 words)
5. How will you evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the ministry and share your story with the Presbytery of Philadelphia? (up to 250 words)

**FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK:**

**What is the proposed budget for the plan?**

**If you were to receive the Covenant Fund Grant, what percentage of it would make up your proposed budget?**

**How much financial support does your Session/Congregation plan to contribute to this new ministry initiative?**

**List of funding partners who will work with you presently and in the future:**

**What plans do you have in place for fundraising and financial sustainability?**

**COVENANT FUND PROJECTED BUDGET**

**Church / Organization Name:**

**Budget Categories:**

Income

**Session/Congregation/Ministry Initiative Contribution:**

**Other Sources (specify):**

**Covenant Fund Request:**

**Total Projected Income \$**

Expenses *(please itemize expenses below, e.g. materials, operating expenses, training, etc.)*

**Total Projected Expenses \$**