



**Mission Committee: Small Church Program
New Beginnings/Mission Pathways Assessment Application
For Qualified Congregations
Due May 1, 2023**

Submit to: salariesupplement@chicagopresbytery.org

This Presbytery-funded program is available to qualified congregations, as determined by written application, guided by the rationale below. Applications will be due on or before May 1 and, pending Mission Committee approval, an August or September program start is planned.

Program Rationale and Content:

This opportunity for small churches has been designed with the understanding that every congregation reaches a point in their life together when it would be helpful to examine all of the components of who they are, how they “do what they do”, and take a considered view of what the future might hold for their church family.

As an offshoot of the Presbytery’s Salary Supplement program, this grant does not include funding. It does, however, provide the opportunity for qualifying congregations to participate in the detailed Assessment portion of the New Beginnings/Mission Pathways programming free of charge. This Assessment includes a thorough examination of church finances; attendance and engagement statistics; physical plant condition and use statistics; and a number of other points essential to the life of the church. Most importantly, the Assessment will include an Appreciative Inquiry session with the congregation, guided by New Beginnings/Mission Pathways personnel.

Following delivery of the Assessment, Presbytery of Chicago facilitators will moderate a Leadership Weekend for the pastor and a leadership team which will provide guidance and tools for continued discernment by the congregation.

Qualifications of the Congregation:

Please confirm that your congregation meets the guidelines below:

- The congregation has less than \$200,000 in unrestricted investments, endowments, memorial funds, etc.



- The congregation has a total budget of under \$250,000 and has a budget that has balanced income and expenses.
- While participating in the Small Church program, the congregation must commit to submitting per capita payments in full and to contributing to general mission giving and/or special offerings through the PCUSA.
- While participating in the Small Church program, the congregation must also commit to submitting its annual statistical report to the PCUSA.
- The congregation has an annual stewardship campaign and system for tracking giving.
- The session has its session records reviewed by the Presbytery regularly.
- The congregation has by-laws that reflect its current structure.
- Prior to approval, the session will be required to complete the Financial Health Assessment provided by the Presbyterian Foundation; and,
- The session will be required to use MissionInsite to discover more about its neighborhood.

Qualifications of the Pastor (if the congregation has a pastor)

- The pastor will be PCUSA Minister of Word and Sacrament or Commissioned Pastor or a pastor in a denomination as mentioned in G-2.0505.
- The call will be part-time, and will meet all of the Presbytery requirements for part-time calls.
- The pastor's Boundary Training will be up to date.

Process:

- Once formal application has been received by the Mission Committee, a meeting will be scheduled with the Executive Presbyter and a member of the Presbytery's Mission Committee. Pastor (if the congregation has a pastor), Clerk of Session and at least 2 other Session members will be expected to attend. Application, related financial documents and New Beginnings/Mission Pathways component will be discussed at this time.
- As noted above, congregations will be required to complete the Financial Health Assessment and MissionInsite survey in advance of this meeting.
- Recommendations from this group will inform the Mission Committee, which will review all applications and determine suitability for funding at its regularly scheduled meeting in August.



Questions?

Please address any questions to the Presbytery's Mission committee at salariesupplement@chicagopresbytery.org.

Submitted by / Primary Contact: _____

Email address: _____

In what capacity: _____

Church Name: _____

Church Mailing Address: _____

Submission Date: _____