



**Small Church Program Application
For Qualified Congregations
Due May 1, 2024**

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 anticipated.

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 includes \$10,000 in funding and provides the opportunity for qualifying congregations to participate in one-year of the New Beginnings/Mission Pathways programming.

This year of programming will include:

- Presbytery Orientation meeting
- New Beginnings Assessment & Appreciative Inquiry evening
- Leadership Training Weekend / preparing for Small Group meetings
- 4 Small Group meetings, moderated by Congregational Leadership team
- Presbytery Facilitated Closing Session re: living into the Future Story that has emerged

Note that the New Beginnings Assessment involves 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 Training 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. Please attach supporting documentation.
- The congregation has a total budget of under \$250,000 and has a budget that has balanced income and expenses. Please attach supporting documentation.
- 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 PC(USA).
- 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.

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

- The pastor will be PC(USA) 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 Presbytery Staff 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.
- Recommendations from this group will inform the Mission Committee, which will review all applications and determine suitability for approval at its regularly scheduled meeting in August.



APPLICATION

1. Thank you for taking this first step! What is your rationale for applying for the Small Church program?
2. Please confirm that your church and Pastor meet the Qualifications as noted above:
3. Please give some insight into any Qualification(s) your church or Pastor might not meet at this time:
4. Please attach documentation to confirm your current budget and investments. Are there any line items here for which you'd like to provide additional commentary?
5. Do Pastor, Session and Congregation understand and agree to the 1-year commitment this program requires, once approved?
6. Questions?

Please submit this completed form, supporting financial documentation and any questions to the Presbytery's Mission committee at salariesupplement@chicagopresbytery.org.



Submitted by / Primary Contact: _____

Church Name: _____

Church Mailing Address: _____

Your Role: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Submission Date: _____