





Office of Mission Program Grants

[nwcgrants@pcusa.org](mailto:nwcgrants@pcusa.org)

**All new congregations begin as new worshiping communities, but not all new worshiping communities will become congregations. Therefore, new church developments and new worshiping communities can utilize this application.**

Being the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires faithful creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial leadership to reach new generations and populations. This grant is designed to encourage the birth of NWCs through congregations and presbyteries rather than to fund the expansion or support of existing congregations or programs.

In all cases, applicants for a Seed Grant will have spent time in prayer, discernment and fact-finding regarding your call to address spiritual and/or physical needs in your communities and the resources necessary for your outreach. If the Holy Spirit is prompting your team to plant seeds, a Seed Grant may help with initial steps toward that vision.

The resource [Starting New Worshiping Communities](#) can assist in discerning whether to apply for additional grants following the Seed Grant.

**GRANT FUNDING AMOUNTS: NWCs/NCDs may apply for a one-time Seed Grant of up to \$10,000. Matching funds are not required. Please see the definition of a NWC at the end of this document.**

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**Please answer the following questions:**

**1. Give a summary of your NWC (3-5 sentences).**

**2. Describe your discernment process.**

**3. How does this ministry fit, or intend to fit, each part of the definition of an NWC? Share some of your plans for how you intend to address each point in the definition of an NWC.**



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**4. How are you supported by and accountable to your partner congregation, your presbytery, and/or synod?**

**5. How will you know if your plan is working and how you will adapt if you are not?**

**6. How do you intend to use the Seed Grant money?**



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Please list below any funding that the NWC/NCD is providing and funding that is expected from presbytery and/or synod, if any. Please list under "Seed Grant," the amount (up to \$10,000) that you are requesting the Office of Mission Program Grants to disburse in support of the NWC. Finally, if another entity is providing resources, please list the amount under "Other" and describe in the "Comments" space below.

New Worshiping Community	Presbytery	Synod	Seed Grant	Other	Total
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Comments:					

This proposal was reviewed and approved by the appropriate mission strategy body of the partner congregation and presbytery. Those giving oversight or providing assistance should date and sign below. Synod review and approval of this proposal is required if the synod provides funding.

The Office of Mission Program Grants makes grants in support of ministries that are related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If a supported ministry separates from the denomination, the full amount of the grant may become due and payable.

**After obtaining appropriate partner congregation and presbytery approval and signature, e-mail as a single attachment the completed proposal to [nwcgrants@pcusa.org](mailto:nwcgrants@pcusa.org) at the Mission Program Grants office. Disbursements for approved proposals will be made once leadership has started.**

*Note: If anyone signing below is a current member of the Interim Unified Agency Board, please inform the Office of Mission Program Grants staff at the email address above.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Partner Congregation Designee  
(if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Presbytery Executive, Stated Clerk or  
Designee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Synod Executive or Designee  
(if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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### **Guidelines & Application Instructions for New Worshiping Communities Grants (NWCs)**

These grants are intended to support operating/program expenses such as salary and benefits, insurance, other approved health care expenses, rent, educational materials, etc... These grants are limited to NWCs that are related to the Presbyterian Church (USA), located within the United States and Puerto Rico and were ordinarily established no earlier than five years prior to the date the NWC began. All applications are available on the [website](#).

Applicants may apply for a one-time **Seed Grant** of up to \$10,000. Matching funds are not required.

One year after receiving a Seed Grant, an NWC may apply for a one-time **Investment Grant** of up to \$30,000. Approval of Investment Grants is conditioned upon real progress being made toward completing the discernment process set forth in "[Starting New Worshiping Communities](#)."

Eighteen months after receiving an Investment Grant, an NWC may apply for a one-time **Growth Grant** of up to \$30,000.

Investment and Growth Grants ordinarily require a dollar-for-dollar match provided by the combined contributions of the partner congregation and presbytery and/or synod. In-kind contributions for the match are acceptable. Waivers of the match will be considered upon request and on a case-by-case basis.

For Growth Grants, NWC applicants should clearly demonstrate mission giving beyond the local community, with at least 5% of the annual budget being donated to shared mission giving to the presbytery, synod and/or Interim Unified Agency.

#### **The following three conditions should be satisfied prior to submitting proposals for consideration.**

1. For all grants it is a requirement for the presbytery Stated Clerk to have completed and submitted the Office of the General Assembly Church Change Form (CCF) on behalf of the NWC/NCD to be supported. For information about this process, please contact [OGA.Records@pcusa.org](mailto:OGA.Records@pcusa.org).
2. It is a condition of funding for Investment and Growth Grants that the leader must be connected with a coach. If the NWC does not already have a coach, the 1001 NWCs Ministry has a network of coaches available. For information about starting the process of being connected with a coach, please contact The Rev. Jeff Eddings. His email is [jeff.eddings@pcusa.org](mailto:jeff.eddings@pcusa.org).
3. a. NWC leaders applying for Investment and Growth Grants should have successfully completed the "Discerning Missional Leadership: A Potential Church Planters Assessment. For more information about Church Planters Assessments, please contact The Rev. Michael Gehrling to schedule your assessment. His email is [michael.gehrling@pcusa.org](mailto:michael.gehrling@pcusa.org).  
b. In addition, NWC leaders applying for Investment and Growth Grants should have successfully completed one of the following:
  - The 1001 NWC Apprenticeship Program / the 1001 NWC Residency Program. Please contact the Rev. Sara Hayden to register for either program. Her email is [sara.hayden@pcusa.org](mailto:sara.hayden@pcusa.org).
  - The 1001 NWC Accelerator Training, offered either in-person, virtually, or in an online cohort in English or Spanish. Please contact Jeya So to reserve your place in one of the scheduled programs or workshops. Her email is [jeya.so@pcusa.org](mailto:jeya.so@pcusa.org).

We offer a **Health Insurance Grant** that provides supplemental funding to in support of an NWC leader who would not otherwise be able to afford health insurance. This annual grant is for up to \$3,000 and is renewable twice.

As an expression of connectional stewardship, it is encouraged that grant recipients commit to "paying it forward" to the Extra Commitment Opportunity account found on the [website](#). Your support will help provide future funding for the establishment of new congregations, new worshiping communities like yours, and presbyteries that wish to encourage continual congregational transformation. Please help continue this important work.



## A New Worshiping Community is...

### Brief Definition

- **New**
  - Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ
  - Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture
- **Worshipping**
  - Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament
  - Sent by the Spirit to join God’s mission for the transformation of the world
- **Community**
  - Practicing mutual care and accountability
  - Developing sustainability in leadership and finances

### Long Definition

- **New**
  - **Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ**  
*NWCs witness in word and deed (1 John 3:18), continuing Jesus’ own mission of discipling, feeding, teaching, healing, welcoming, crossing boundaries, and proclaiming God’s coming realm. Those with new and renewed faith join the Spirit’s transforming work in the world.*
    - **Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture**  
*Living out the Gospel demands ministry which engages today’s cultures (John 1:14). New ways of joining Christians together for contextual ministry will use current and historic ways of “being church” as springboards for creative innovation (Matthew 9:17).*
  - **Sent by the Spirit to join God’s mission for the transformation of the world**  
*The Spirit impels us outward, so that worshipers participate in the redemption of the world in Christ (Col. 1:20). Therefore, the primary beneficiaries of the NWC are not its own members, but rather its community and world.*
- **Community**
  - **Practicing mutual care and accountability**  
*We commit ourselves to love one another (John 13:34) in relationships of mutual care and accountability, as faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Entrusting ourselves and the church to the Holy Spirit, we seek to grow to maturity in faith and life.*
  - **Developing sustainability in leadership and finances**  
*As distinct yet connected expressions of the body of Christ, NWCs have local leadership arising from their own community of faith (Exodus 18:21). Pastoral leadership, facilities, and programs are all appropriately structured in order to demonstrate good and faithful stewardship.*
- **Worshipping**
  - **Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament**  
*We seek to hear, come to believe, and are equipped to live the promises of God revealed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. NWCs welcome new members of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27) through Baptism and are nourished by Christ’s spiritual presence in the Lord’s Supper.*

**Responding to Christ’s gift and call, we do all these things only by God’s grace, seeking—above all else—to glorify God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.**