

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

The Commission for Nurture and Outreach of The Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) seeks to be a resource to assist congregations to be missional churches within the Presbyterian Church (USA). This partnership includes the Session-endorsed Neighborhood Mission Grant program which *seeks to honor the way your congregation reaches out in the name of Jesus Christ to your neighboring surroundings at this time.*

The Commission's criteria for these Neighborhood Mission Grants are:

- The mission project is financially supported by the congregation and is evaluated and endorsed by the Session.
- Only one project per church will be considered for mission grants.
- Funding priority will be given to churches submitting requests for first-time projects. Second consideration will be giving to recurring projects that add significantly new dimensions of service. *If the request seeks funding for a project without significant revision, such projects may not receive immediate funding, but depending on available funding, may be considered at a later date in the calendar year.*
- The project involves members of the congregation in “hands-on” ministry and builds the relationship between the congregation and the community.
- The project is consistent with our Christian faith and is compatible with the mission of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.
- Grants may not normally be used for construction, capital improvements, or furnishings.
- Grant requests may not exceed \$3,000.

The Commission for Nurture and Outreach is concerned that mission dollars be used in effective, life-affirming ways, which allow people to maintain dignity, to act on their own behalf, and to be partners in activities that affect their lives. We encourage your planning team or committee to take some time to view this conversation with Robert Lupton, and others given to the Columbus Metropolitan Club at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssuMALbhnwA> then share how your plan relates to the “Oath for Compassionate Service” that Lupton describes. The oath is as follows:

- Never do for the poor what they have (or could have) the capacity to do for themselves.
- Limit one-way giving to emergency situations.
- Strive to empower the poor through employment, lending and investing, using grants sparingly to reinforce achievements.
- Subordinate self-interests to the needs of those being served.
- Listen closely to those you seek to help, especially to what is not being said—unspoken feelings may contain essential clues to effective service.
- Above all, do no harm.

An application for funding follows and can be submitted at any time throughout the year. Applicants will be notified of Commission's decisions contingent upon available funds. **Applications are typically reviewed at CNO's monthly meeting, and, if approved, funding is typically distributed within a month of approval.**

We urge your congregation and all the churches of our Presbytery to increase pledges to the Basic Mission budget of our denomination. This funding is the source for our mission budget within the Presbytery, including Neighborhood Mission Grants. Your response determines how well we can provide partnership assistance for your mission outreach.

If you have questions, please address them to Mary Gause of the Commission at mgause@overbrookchurch.org.

Together in Christ's Mission,
Commission for Nurture and Outreach

Mary Gause, Chairperson

Draft Revision: 3-2018

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV)
Session-Endorsed Neighborhood Mission Grant Application
This application can be submitted at any time.

Mission Statement of Presbytery of Scioto Valley

As Members of the larger Body of Christ and the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, God calls us to live out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. We do this by building partnerships, communicating with and supporting congregations and leaders, and reaching out into the world with the love of Christ.

Please return to: PSV Commission for Nurture & Outreach, 4131 N High St., Suite B, Columbus, OH 43214

Project Overview:

Church: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mission project evaluated and endorsed by Session:

Date

Signature of Clerk of Session

Title of Proposed Project:

Total budget for the project (including funds requested from PSV): _____

Amount requested from PSV (Maximum is \$3,000.00): _____

Duration of proposed project (one year, etc.): _____

Anticipated start date for proposed project: _____

Total number of people and demographic (e.g., youth, senior adults, etc.) to be served:

Brief description of project (no more than two sentences): _____

NOTE: Include any additional information that will help in understanding the ministry and need associated with this mission project. Feel free to expand on any item on a separate piece of paper or the back of this form.

Project Specifics:

1. Is this your first time to request a Session-endorsed Neighborhood Mission Grant?
Yes _____ No _____

If “No”, please attach a synopsis of the last mission project for which you previously received a PSV Neighborhood Mission Grant and include an accounting of how the grant funds were used and spent. Be specific and, if possible, include stories or anecdotes.

2. The Presbytery Commission for Nurture and Outreach is committed to using mission dollars in effective, life-affirming ways. Therefore, we are requesting that your church’s leadership utilize the *Oath for Compassionate Service* referred to in the cover letter and restated here:
- Never do for the poor what they can do for themselves
 - Limit one-way giving to emergency situations
 - Strive to empower the poor
 - Subordinate self-interests to the needs of those being served
 - Listen closely to those you seek to serve
 - Above all...do no harm. ~ from Toxic Charity by Robert Lupton
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Respond to either 2a or 2b

- 2a. If you **have not** received a Neighborhood Mission Grant in the last three years, how does your proposed project take the concerns of this oath into consideration?

- 2b. If you **have received** a Neighborhood Mission Grant in the last three years, please state how your project took the concerns of the oath into consideration and how you will continue to address the concerns with new funding? The expectation is that you will increase the ways that the oath is addressed in subsequent funding years.

3. How will your congregation (and other congregations/organizations) be involved in this Mission Project?
Be as specific as possible, e.g., include financial giving, activities, estimated numbers, etc.

4. How do you plan to make the project financially sustainable, including drawing in new funding sources?

