

New Expressions Funding Support Particulars & Requirements

Background and Formation:

New Expressions explores Christian community by encountering the rhythm of God's love in relational-based ministry that is beyond the norms and walls of congregational life. These expressions of community show up in living rooms, coffee shops, street corners, city parks, online, retreats, and so on. They may be focused on a specific population or open to anyone. It is living out and sharing Christian principles in the public and private spaces of our lives. It is breaking bread. It is sharing life. It is experimenting in ways that allow for people who have left religion, who are in a place of transition and not sure of what's next for them, or who never knew it in the first place, to have entry points for sacred, communal living. It is being open to the ways in which God is inviting us to join God and others in our communities.

Please Note: A New Expression of Community isn't one that provides for life's basic needs such as food banks, shelter ministry, and so on. Those are important, missional endeavors for a congregation or a group to engage in, if they sense that the Holy Spirit is inviting them to do that work, but they aren't what we are talking about with New Expressions. New Expressions is community that is centered specifically on spiritually formed relationships with others and God in the context of creating and being Christian community.

"Our journey into the future will continue through more congregations becoming willing to transform in response to new opportunities. It also will occur through starting new expressions of the church to model what we are talking about."
- from "A Time to Act!" by Community of Christ President Steve Veazey

"Christianity did not begin with a confession. It began with an invitation into friendship, into creating a new community, into forming relationships based on love and service."
- Diana Butler Bass, Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening

"'Community of Christ,' your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go."
- Doctrine & Covenants 163:1

Community Principles for New Expressions of Community:

- To provide space to explore and experiment with what it means to be Christian community.
- To reflect the Enduring Principles for Community of Christ.
- To encounter God through community that is rooted in relationships.

Funding Support Particulars:

At the November 2019 annual Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center Conference, the body passed a resolution that allowed for a fund to be created to allow for New Expressions Funding Support in the initial amount of \$25,000.

The following are some particulars for those seeking funding support:

- Funding requests are reviewed and determined by the New Expressions Team for the Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center.
- There are two funding cycles per calendar year.
 - The first cycle begins March 1 and ends August 31.
 - The second cycle begins September 1 and ends February 28/29.
- No more than 10% of fund balance (as of January 1 of each year) can be spent during each funding cycle.
- Requests for funding support will be determined as request forms are submitted throughout the funding cycle. Therefore, the earlier a form is submitted during a funding cycle, the more likely funding will be available when considering the request. If a request form is submitted and all available funds for that time period have already been allocated, the applicant will need to resubmit their request again at the start of the next cycle. An applicant can still have their request reviewed for feedback even if funds are not available so that it is ready for the next cycle.
- Request forms will be reviewed and determined within 30 days of submittal. The applicant will receive a determination letter from the New Expressions Team Lead and funding will be made available immediately.
- Approved funding support requests must be utilized within 1 year of approval date.
- New Expressions of Community that receive funding support will be assigned a mentor from the New Expression Team for the year that their funding is approved. This mentor will provide a listening ear to the expression coordinator, provide feedback and guidance (when applicable), and report progress to the New Expressions Team.
- Funding support will not be granted for salaries, benefits, or stipends.

Funding Support Application Requirements:

The following requirements apply to those requesting New Expressions funding support:

- The new expression may not be sponsored by an existing congregation or group. Existing congregations and groups should consider applying for a Bold Moves Grant for missional opportunities they wish to pursue. For Bold Moves, go to <http://cofchrist-gpnw.org/boldmoves.html>.
- New Expressions of Community are intended to explore and experiment with what it means to be Christian Community. The possibilities are endless!
- All requests need to identify an Expression Coordinator and a Expression Financial Partner. The Expression Coordinator will provide leadership for the New Expression of Community while the Expression Financial Partner will process reimbursements requests and work with the Expression Coordinator to provide financial oversight for funding support.
- Community Principles, as stated above, are reflected in the New Expression of Community.

Use of Funds by Mission Center Leadership Team:

Mission Center Leadership shall be authorized to expend funds from this account for administrative needs and opportunities directly related to New Expressions ministries, such as

training, advertising, mission center-sponsored promotional events, etc. Such expenditures shall be reviewed and approved by the New Expressions Team and shall not exceed \$1,000.00 per calendar year, and shall not be used for salaries, benefits or stipends. These funds are above and beyond what is available for funding support requests.

New Expressions Team:

The team is composed of the Mission Center President, the Mission Center Financial Officer, the Mission Center Invitation Support Minister, a member of the Western Field staff, and members from within the Mission Center as appointed by the Mission Center Invitation Support Minister, with support from the Mission Center President: to include one member of the Mission Center Council, one member of the Quorum of Seventy, and at least one member at large.

Re-Evaluation:

The New Expressions team will re-evaluate the New Expressions Particulars and Requirements document after the initial first two funding cycles are complete. The New Expressions Team will then re-evaluate a minimum of every 2-3 years so that we are current and relevant in our approach to living out New Expressions of Community. If updates are made, the Council will be notified so that they are kept up to date.

New Expression Funding Support Contact:

Please direct any questions and/or comments to New Expressions Team Lead Sean Langdon (425-293-6366, slangdon@cofchrist-gpnw.org).