



General Congregational Vitality Grants

Purpose of Grants

General Congregational Vitality (CV) grants are available to congregations in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona (Arizona Region). Grants promote the vitality of Arizona Disciples congregations and ministry through these areas of priority: evangelism/church growth, anti-racism/prophetic unity, and public witness.

Process

Grant requests will be reviewed and approved by Regional staff and, when appropriate, a gathered team of regional leaders. Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Ability to vitalize the congregation and region
- The congregation's covenantal relationship with and within the region
- Past awarded grants
- Availability of funds

Congregations can submit for subsequent support, or resubmit amended or updated applications as advised by the Regional Office.

Complete packets should be emailed to region@azdisciples.org. Contact the Regional Office if your church office is unable to submit the packet electronically via email to make other arrangements.

Only complete application packets with all documentation will be reviewed. Completed packets include: applications (pgs. 4-9), eligibility documents (as applicable - see each grant application form), and support documentation (as applicable - see each grant application form).

Requests will generally be reviewed within one calendar month of submission.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility for Regional grants are limited to congregations in covenant with the Arizona Region who have provided the Regional Office (region@azdisciples.org) with the following up to date documentation. These documents can be provided prior to, or with the grant application.

- Current church by-laws and/or governance documents
- Current year's annual budget
- Previous year's end-of-year financial statements
- Listing of congregational leadership with contact information

Congregations must have also submitted their previous annual Yearbook report via the ALEX system.

Requirements

Each application package must include the following. Page 4 contains a checklist to help you gather all necessary documents prior to submitting your application(s).

- **Completed Grant Application form.** Congregations are invited to apply for more than one grant using the check boxes and subsequent grant specific forms. Please be sure to include all necessary documentation for each grant.
- **All additional requirements specific to each offered grant.**

Award Conditions

Grants offered are subject to the congregations agreement to:

- Provide written acknowledgement of receipt of payment/s of grant funds.
- Use the grant funds only as specified in the approved grant proposal and award letter
- Refrain from use of the funds for any purposes prohibited by law.
- Maintain records to show and account for the uses of grant funds.
- Comply with reasonable requests for information about program activities
- Allow the Arizona Region (at their request) access to records to verify grant expenditures
- Repay any portion of the funds not used for the specified purposes
- Cooperate with any efforts of the Arizona Region to publicize the grant award and/or outcomes.
- Provide a written summary and photos (with consent and release) showing community impact of the project six months after receipt of the grant, if applicable.
- Meet additional terms and conditions specified in any addendum as part of award acceptance.

Available Grants

Applications can be submitted and will be considered for any effort that clearly seeks to promote the vitality of Arizona Disciples congregations and meets the requirements of this application. However, there are four particular types of applications that promote the three areas of priority named above.

1. **Website Grant** – An up-to-date and modern online presence is the most basic tool that allows people to find and learn about your congregation. It is often the first and only place people come into contact with your congregation. Website Grants provide funds to either build a new website or rebuild/update their current site. The Regional Office has contracted with an experienced web designer to fulfill approved grant requests.
2. **Land Acknowledgement Plaque Grant** – Each of our church buildings are located on land originally occupied by indigenous peoples. The Regional Office will provide up to \$1000 for a congregation to design and purchase a land acknowledgement plaque to be publicly displayed in your building. The Regional Office will also provide examples and a company which can make your plaque.
3. **Anti-Racism Grants** – Anti-Racism training is a priority for the Arizona Region. Anti-Racism Training Grants cover the costs of Disciples training facilitators for a congregation (from approximately \$500 - \$3000) to offer an on-site, one or two day Anti-Racism training (meals to be provided by the congregation). We encourage congregations to include the entire congregation, however trainings just for leadership are also acceptable. Congregations that receive this grant and complete the training with significant participation by its leaders (staff, board members, elders, and committee chairs - or equivalent leadership) will automatically receive additional bonus grants to be used for continued Anti-Racism efforts or congregational vitality. Congregations with 75% leader participation will receive a \$1000 bonus grant and congregations with 100% leader participation will receive an additional \$1000 bonus grant (total of \$2000).
4. **Prophetic Unity Grants** – Our 2022 Regional Assembly theme was: “Unidad Profética/Prophetic Unity.” Disciples have long claimed to promote unity, but too often it has been a superficial understanding of unity, where we all smile at the camera and pretend to get along while leaving in place the injustices and inequalities that make for division. “Prophetic unity” is a challenge to go deeper, to share power, to affirm each other and our unique cultures. It is also a challenge to be prophetic -- to demonstrate a true unity that serves as a prophetic witness to our world. Prophetic Unity grants aim to move us toward prophetic unity through congregations partnering with each other (across racial/ethnic/linguistic lines) for a worship/education/fellowship event/work project; hosting speakers of a different racial/ethnic/linguistic background; border education trip or activity; and other creative ways that strive for prophetic unity.

General Congregational Vitality Grant Checklist

Utilize this checklist to ensure you have provided all necessary information when submitting your grant requests. Incomplete grant applications will not be reviewed until all required documentation is submitted.

If you have any questions about any of the documentation needed, please email us at region@azdisciples.org.

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

- Completed the most recent Annual Yearbook Report through ALEX (alex.disciples.org)
- Attach current church by-laws and/or governance documents
- Attach current year's annual budget
- Attach previous year's end-of-year financial statements
- Attach a listing of congregational leadership with contact information

Specific Grant Applications and Requirements

- Attach the complete "General Congregational Vitality Grant Application" (pg. 5)

For each of the following attach as applicable

- Attach "Website Grant Application and Requirements" (pg. 6)
- Attach "Land Acknowledgement Plaque Grant Application and Requirements (pg. 7)
- Attach "Anti-Racism Training Grant Application" (pg. 8)
- Attach "Prophetic Unity Grant Application and Requirements" (pg. 9)
- Attach "Other Congregational Vitality Grant Application and Requirements" (pg 10)

For Prophetic Unity Grant Applications and Other Congregational Vitality Grants also

- Attach additional documentation detailed on pages 9 & 10 including
 - A detailed description of the proposed program/activity/event
 - A moderately detailed budget showing projected income (including award and additional sources) and expenses. If this is a multi-year/event project, please include a total budget and annual breakdowns for each year
 - A summary of the goals of the program/activity/event and how you will measure success and identify challenges after the program/activity/event
 - A process (financial internal controls) for handling the award

General Congregational Vitality Grant Application

Applicant Information

Church: _____

Address: _____
City State ZIP

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ministry Leader/Applicant Name: _____

Pastor (if different from Ministry Leader): _____

Grant Information Overview

Check each type of grant being requested:

- Website
- Land Acknowledgement
- Anti-Racism Training
- Prophetic Unity Amount Requested: \$ _____ Total Cost: \$ _____
- Other Congregational Vitality Amount Requested: \$ _____ Total Cost: \$ _____

Total Amount Requested: \$ _____ Total Cost: \$ _____

Pastor
Name (printed) _____

Board chairperson
Name (printed) _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Date: _____

Website Grant Application and Requirements

If you are applying for a Website Grant please complete the following information. Attach additional documentation as requested.

Does your church already have a website?

Yes | No (if yes, website address: _____)

Does your budget include funds for a website or social media?

Yes | No (if yes, annual budget for: website \$ _____, social media \$ _____,)

Would you like to use the Region's recommended contractor?

Grants approved using the Region's recommended contractor will be fully funded by the grant. Grants approved with a different contractor may not be fully funded depending on the costs and contractor.

Yes | No If no, please include on a separate page a copy of a detailed estimate for services provided by the contractor that include their business name and website.

If no, grant amount requested: \$ _____

List below who will be trained to update the site and train additional volunteers as needed?

#1 _____ #2 _____

#3 _____ #4 _____

Additional pertinent information (optional - use additional pages as needed)

Pastor's signature _____

Church _____

Land Acknowledgement Plaque Grant Application and Requirements

If you are applying for the Land Acknowledgement Plaque Grant please complete the following information. Attach additional documentation as requested.

Using the interactive map at <https://native-land.ca/> please list below all territories on which your church property resides. Hint: click the "Settler Labels" button to show US state borders, cities, and landmarks. If using a different source please indicate source here _____.

Territories:

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

6. _____

Please describe the location on your church property where the plaque will permanently reside:

- We would like to receive additional information to connect with local indigenous peoples organizations so that our congregation and community continue our learning.

I, _____, board chair (or leadership equivalent), affirm that our board and congregation are committed to the permanent placement of the Land Acknowledgement Plaque as described above.

Board chairperson's signature _____ **Church** _____

Anti-Racism Training Grant Application and Requirements

If you are applying for the Anti-Racism Training Grant please complete the following information. Attach additional documentation as requested.

First best date for training _____ Second best date for training _____

While the Regional Office will work with congregations on obtaining trainers for dates above, please do not advertise dates to leaders and congregations until confirmed by the Regional Office.

Will the training open to anyone in the congregation/community?

Yes | No While grants will be approved for trainings focused on church leadership we strongly encourage trainings open to the entire congregation. If you would like to do two trainings, one for church leadership and one for the entire congregation please circle yes and add a note to the left.

Has your congregation had a Disciples Anti-Racism Training in the past?

Yes | No If yes, when? _____

Have your minister(s) already received Disciples Anti-Racism Training

Yes | No

Are you anticipating 75% (or higher) participation from your church leadership?

Yes | No

How can the Region help continue Anti-Racism education and Reconciliation efforts in your church?

Pastor's signature _____

Church _____

Prophetic Unity Grant Application and Requirements

If you are applying for a Prophetic Unity Grant please complete the following information. Attach additional documentation as requested.

For **each** Prophetic Unity Grant supply the following:

1. A detailed description of the proposed program/activity/event that includes
 - a. anticipated date(s) of program/activity/event
 - b. a statement about the purposes of the program/activity/event
 - c. a statement of understanding answering “how does the program/activity/event promote prophetic unity in your congregation, your community, and/or the Arizona Region”
 - d. a listing of partners (Disciples congregations, community organizations, etc.)
2. A moderately detailed budget showing projected income (including award and additional sources) and expenses. If this is a multi-year/event project, please include a total budget and annual breakdowns for each year.
3. A summary of the goals of the program/activity/event and how you will measure success and identify challenges after the program/activity/event.
4. A process (financial internal controls) for handling the award.

If you are engaging in this program/activity/event with another Disciples Congregation (highly encouraged) only one application needs to be submitted. However, each pastor and board chairperson must sign below.

Please limit each Prophetic Unity Grant Application package to five pages or fewer.

Church _____

Pastor's signature _____

Board chairperson's signature _____

Church _____

Pastor's signature _____

Board chairperson's signature _____

Other Congregational Vitality Grant Application and Requirements

If you are applying for any other Congregational Vitality Grant please complete the following information. Attach additional documentation as requested.

For **each** Congregational Vitality Grant supply the following:

1. A detailed description of the how the grant award would be used for Congregational Vitality
 - a. anticipated date(s) of expenditure/program/activity/event
 - b. a statement about the purposes of the expenditure/program/activity/event
 - c. a detailed statement of understanding answering “how does the expenditure/program/activity/event promote vitality in your congregation”
 - d. a listing of partners (Disciples congregations, community organizations, etc.)
2. A detailed budget showing projected income (including award and additional sources) and expenses. If this is a multi-year/event project, please include a total budget and annual breakdowns for each year.
3. A summary of the goals of the program/activity/event and how you will measure success and identify challenges after the program/activity/event.
4. A process (financial internal controls) for handling the award.
5. Any additional information that might be helpful in evaluating the request.

Please limit each Congregational Vitality Grant Application package to five pages or less.

Church _____

Pastor's signature _____

Board chairperson's signature _____