

## **Proposal for Congregational Vitality Grant Program (Draft)**

### Introduction

The Congregational Vitality Grant Program provides financial support to churches within our Presbytery for projects that strengthen and enhance ministry. By investing in congregations that are actively engaged in mission and growth, the Presbytery seeks to nurture vibrant communities of faith and extend the witness of the church.

### Program Details

- **Grant Amount:** Churches may request up to \$50,000, provided the amount does not exceed 150% of the appraised value of the church property.
- **Funding Cycle:** Up to \$50,000 is available annually from Presbytery endowment funds.
- **Accountability:** Funds are released only after a congregation has provided project-ready documentation (such as bids, contracts, or detailed plans) along with a clearly defined vision for how the project will strengthen their ministry.

### Objectives

- **Support Vital Congregations:** Invest in congregations that are actively engaged in ministry and demonstrating energy for growth in mission, outreach, and participation.
- **Encourage Responsible Stewardship:** Ensure funds are used effectively by requiring congregations to present a clear vision and supporting documentation before receiving funds.
- **Strengthen the Witness of the Church:** Provide resources that enable churches to carry out projects that increase their impact in the community.

### Eligibility Criteria

- **Churches within the Presbytery:** Only congregations within our Presbytery are eligible.
- **Vitality Requirement:** Churches must demonstrate vitality through evidence of ministry engagement and a pattern of growth in mission, outreach, or membership.
- **Project Readiness:** Applications must include documentation of bids or equivalent materials showing the project is ready to begin.
- **Financial Standing:** Churches must be current on per capita payments or actively engaged in a repayment plan approved by the Presbytery Leadership POD.

### Application Process

- **Submission:** Churches submit a formal application (see attached form).
- **Review:** The Congregational Vitality Pod reviews applications and makes recommendations to the Presbytery Leadership POD. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the annual allocation is spent.

- Approval and Disbursement: Grants are approved with the condition that funds will not be released until all project-ready documentation has been received and approved.

### Funding

The Congregational Vitality Pod may allocate up to \$50,000 annually from the Presbytery Endowment to support this program.

### Conclusion

The Congregational Vitality Grant Program represents our commitment to nurturing strong, mission-driven churches. By providing accessible funding with clear accountability, the Presbytery empowers congregations to take bold steps that grow their ministries and extend the love of Christ in their communities.