

Trinity Action Projects – TAP **Guidelines for the Distribution** **of TAP Funds.**

East Ohio Conference Mission

The mission of The East Ohio Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is to make and mature disciples for the transformation of the world.

East Ohio Conference Vision

The East Ohio Conference equips and supports pastors, congregations, and faith communities to grow in their capacity to bear fruit that lasts by:

- being disciples, making disciples, and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ;
- being God’s agents of transformation in our communities and throughout the world;
and
- being bold and courageous leaders in reaching new people, younger people, and a more diverse people.

With the closing and sale of the Cuyahoga Falls Trinity United Methodist Church, the Canal District was given an avenue to live into God's vision for local churches and other United Methodist related agencies. With redistricting in 2024, this avenue has been expanded to more of East Ohio United Methodist churches and agencies.

Directed by our conference mission and vision statements, the funds generated by TAP will fuel cutting edge ministry to expand God’s purposes in our geographic area and beyond.

The biblical foundation for TAP can be found in Proverbs 29:19, “Where there is no vision, the people parish.” In the New Testament Jesus assures us that God has a vision for redemption for the world. John 3:16 declares, “For God so loved the world that God gave his only begotten son that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Spending Policy for TAP

The principle of TAP will be invested in the East Ohio Area Foundation. 5% of the principle of the annual December 31st balance of the fund will be available on a yearly basis.

The team designated with making the grant decisions may spend up to this 5% total over both annual award cycles. The team may award less than that in any given year but may not exceed it.

Application Process for TAP

Any ministry that very clearly and directly relates to the mission and vision of the Conference may submit an application. Funds for mission purposes are intended as “seed money” to be used as start-up funds to help initiate ministry and mission outreach. Programs/ projects may reapply for additional funds up to three years after the first award.

Applications will be accepted twice a year with an application date which is announced at least 30 days in advance via a conference level communication such as ENEWS. All East Ohio UMC local churches and other United Methodist related agencies are able to apply.

Applications can be completed by clergy, church/agency staff or church members. All applications must be submitted via email to the person indicated in the conference level communication.

Applicants can apply for up to \$5000. A precise budget is highly encouraged. All funds awards will be dispersed as a one time payment which will be communicated to the church or agency following the awarding of the grants.

Applications will have a specific plan and/or strategy for a ministry, clearly defined method(s) in which the funds will be used, and a plan for sustainability. TAP Grand funding may not be used for capital expenditures or clergy salaries.

Application does not guarantee funds will be awarded.

All unspent funds must be returned to TAP at the year’s end of the project’s inception.

The Grant Review Team

TAP grants will be awarded by team decision which is created as a neutral party for discernments. Grant applications will be assessed in light of the East Ohio mission and vision. That responsibility currently belongs to The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church’s Board of Congregational Development. Grant priority is given new ministries, innovative ministries, and ministries that reach the communities in which the church is called to connect.

Churches which currently receive conference level grants will not be considered.

TAP Application- Due by Dec 2.

Email completed application with budget to Rev Beth Ortiz, bortiz@eocumc.com

Ministry Title:

Church or Agency applying:

Name and position of person(s) completing application:

Describe the ministry or project for which TAP will be used. This description should include a general scope of the project/ministry, how the vision can about for this, and how and when funds will be utilized.

Amount Requested:

How does this ministry fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church?

How does this ministry fulfill the vision of East Ohio United Methodist Church?

How is the church or agency supporting this ministry (please name financial, volunteers, networking, and all other means of support)?

What is the plan for this ministry to be financial sustainable in the future?

If this grant is partially funded, can the ministry still move forward?

What other partners do you have or will you seek?

When was your Safe Sanctuary policy last reviewed and updated?

Have you spoken with your DS about this ministry?

Please attach a budget for this ministry. Please provide precise information for the ministry/project, but not the entire church budget.