

East Ohio Ministry Micro Grants Application

East Ohio Ministry Micro Grants are sponsored by the Board of Congregational Development and Connectional Ministries Office: Strategic Ministries. The grants are for Fresh Expressions, small groups, and/or new ministry that seek to reach those not within the current church community.

The deadline to apply is **March 3** and awardees will be announced by March 21. These micro grants, which may be awarded to \$2000 as determined by Board of Congregational Development grant team, must be spent in totality by Dec 31, 2025.

Contact Rev Beth Ortiz, Connectional Ministries Office Director of Strategic Ministries, at bortiz@eocumc.com, to submit your application or with questions.

Please read each of the requirements below and indicate that your ministry meets them. If your ministry does not qualify for a microgrant or if you are unsure if it does, email Rev Beth Ortiz for confirmation of qualification or to learn about other grant opportunities which the ministry may qualify for.

All requirements must be met and checked to apply.

_____ Must be a ministry of a local United Methodist Church in East Ohio.

_____ Must be a new ministry that is either under 2 months old or had not yet begun.

_____ The ministry seeks to reach those not yet in the church.

_____ Church cannot be currently receiving any other conference level grant funding (this does not refer to coaching, trainings or other such support).

_____ The ministry must be relational, not transactional in nature. This means within the ministry there must be a clear plan of how relationships will be built. Advertising costs will not be covered if they are above 20% of the total request.

_____ Must have at least one lay involved in the planning/implementation.

A report must be submitted within 6 months.

Please note: Application for funds does not guarantee funds.

Guidelines:

Microgrants were designed to help churches experiment with new ministry for those not already in the local church. These are for ministries which build relationships and allow people to experience faith furthering the United Methodist mission of making disciples.

Examples of microgrant funded ministries are Dinner Church, Playground Ministry, ministry in a nursing home, summer worship experience in an open public venue, and arts ministry. All of these include elements of faith connection, relationship building, and engaging new people. They also include a clear plan of how they will engage with new people. This is not an exhaustive list of what can be funded but rather examples of what has been done.

Examples of what will not be funded would be food pantries which are transactional (no relationship development), applications that are largely for advertising, ministries for those already in the church, short term mission trips, or other one time stand-alone ministries without clear ongoing connection plan.

Do not request more than \$2000. Provide clear information of what those funds will be used for.

If you have not already shared this ministry with your District Superintendent, do so as soon as you can for feedback, support, and celebration.

Application:

Church/Parish Name: _____

Clergy involved and their role:

Lay involved and their role:

Requested amount: _____

Overall budget of the ministry (not the church): _____ Please attach details.

Will this ministry be able to happen without this funding? _____

If partial funding is awarded, will this ministry still proceed? _____

When and how did you share this ministry idea with your District Superintendent?

What is the plan to sustain this ministry after this initial funding?

What community partners, if any, have you sought:

Please attached responses to the below requests/questions:

Provide us details about the ministry.

How does this seek to fulfill the UMC Mission?

How does this seek to fulfill the East Ohio vision?

Name of person submitting application: _____ Date: _____