

## East Ohio Ministry Micro Grants Application

East Ohio Ministry Micro Grants are sponsored by the Board of Congregational Development and Office of Discipleship Ministries. The grants are for new, emerging, or significantly reenvisioned ministries which seek to reach those not within the current church community.

The deadline to apply is **Feb 3, 2026** and awardees will be announced by Feb 23, 2026. These micro grants, which may be awarded up to \$5000 as determined by Board of Congregational Development grant team. Contact Rev Beth Ortiz, Executive Director of Discipleship Ministries for the Ohio Episcopal Area, at [bortiz@eocumc.com](mailto:bortiz@eocumc.com), to submit your application or with questions.

**Requirements:** Must be a ministry of a local United Methodist Church in East Ohio.

Must be a new or significantly re-visioned ministry (started on or after Sept 3, 2025) that seeks to reach those not yet in the church.

The ministry must be relational, not transactional in nature. Grant will not fund promotional materials, advertisement, or ministries which do not offer meaningful connection between people.

Must have at least one lay involved in the planning/implementation. Microgrants are envisioned as grants for a faith community and lay participation in all stages is critical to such type of ministry.

There should be a clear plan or vision of how the faith community will connect with/reach the intended group for this ministry.

Funds must be spent for this ministry within 9 months or returned.

A report must be submitted within 6 months (details about reporting will be supplied to awardees with the payment dispersal in early November 2025).

Safe Sanctuary policy must be up to date having been reviewed and accepted within the last 5 years and being complied with wherever the ministry takes place.

**Please note:** Application for funds does not guarantee award.

### **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 an element 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), ministries for those already in the church, short term mission trips, or other one time stand-alone ministries without clear ongoing connection plan.

**Application:**

Church/Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Clergy involved and their role:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lay involved and their role:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Requested amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall budget of the ministry (not the church): \_\_\_\_\_

Will this ministry be able to happen without this funding? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Have you spoken with your DS about district funding? \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What community partners, if any, have you sought:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What other grants have you received in the last 12 months or are currently applying for:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach responses to the below requests/questions:

Provide us details about the ministry. If this is a new ministry, share how the vision evolved and the hoped for outcome. If this is a significantly reenvisioned ministry, also include how this has changed from previous iterations.

How does this seek to fulfill the UMC Mission?

How does this seek to fulfill the East Ohio vision (as found on the East Ohio UMC Conference website)?

Attach detail ministry (not church) budget and indicate clearly what elements the grant would financially support.

Name of person submitting application: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_