

STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL CHURCH PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION

Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

What is Strengthen the Church?

Strengthen the Church is one of the four special offerings of the United Church of Christ which is dedicated to the growth of the UCC by:

- Funding **new church starts** and **invigorating existing congregations**
- Nurturing **lay and pastoral leadership**
- Building **youth and young adult** ministries
- Supporting the **God is Still Speaking Ministry** and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ.

What is Strengthen the Local Church?

50% of all Strengthen the Church contributions go to support the National UCC ministries. The remaining 50% is kept within the Pacific Northwest Conference to support activities and programs within our region. 25% of the contribution is then allocated to the Church Development Funds for Church Development and Renewal Grants. The final 25% is allocated to the Strengthen the Local Church Project Grants.

What are Project Grants?

Project Grants ranging from \$200 to \$2,000 can be applied for by PNC committees and member churches for specifically designed projects to strengthen the churches within our conference. Examples might include sponsoring a youth or young adult event, a project to enhance women's ministry or outdoor ministries, or sending Renewing Church Pastors to the national UCC New Church Leaders Institute.

What is Required in Order to Apply?

- **People** – There must be a person or group of people connected with PNC or a member church, willing to take responsibility for designing the project and seeing it through to success.
- **Plan** – The project must be specifically designed including WHO it will support, WHERE it will take place, WHEN it will occur, WHAT will happen and most importantly HOW it will Strengthen the Church.

What other Considerations are Taken in Account?

All applications will be evaluated by the PNC Stewardship Committee, which will consider these and other factors:

- Applicants' history of participation in the life of the Conference and/or Local Church
- Whether the Local Church participates in the UCC special offerings such as a "5-for-5 Church"
- Whether matching funds are offered or available
- Whether funding sources are being sought from a variety of sources (*Note: Grants cannot be given by CDC & STLC to the same project*)
- The viability of a successful outcome for the project's stated goals.

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Describe who the project will support:

Describe where and when the project will take place:

Describe how the project will Strengthen the Church:

How much is being requested for the project? How much, if any will you be matching towards the total cost of the project?

To be paid at once or as installments?

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Conference Use Only:

Date Received	Date Approved	Date Paid Out	Date Completed
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	Stewardship Signature		Amount Approved
Date Reviewed	Stewardship Signature		Amount of Valid Receipts
Amount (if any) due back to the STC – Local Fund			\$

Note:

Receipts must be provided to the Stewardship Committee at the end of the project along with a description of the project's outcome. All unused portions of the grant must be returned to the Pacific Northwest Conference Strengthen the Local Church Fund when the project is completed.