

## Guidelines

**Purpose of the Future of the Church Ministry Area.** The Future of the Church (FOTC) Ministry Area of the Presbytery of Arkansas serves as a catalyst to engage congregations and presbytery Ministry Areas in creative thinking and planning beyond current models of ministry and programming. The Future of the Church Ministry Area assists with visioning, branding, technology, and development of new ministries and supports new church developments of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

**Eligibility and Timeframe.** The FOTC is accepting one year proposals from Presbyterian churches within the Presbytery of Arkansas. Completed application forms will be received from **March 1-April 30** of each year. The funding year is from August 1 to July 30. Funding may be applied for again, for a total of three years.

**Grant Objective.** Proposals should aim to support a congregation in the development of a program, opportunity, institutional structure, or possibly facility improvement(s) that revitalize or extend the congregation's capacity for ministries to new populations or communities as well as for a church's own congregational growth in spirit, vitality, and mission.

**Application Guidelines.** The following factors are considered, although not exclusively, in reviewing proposals:

- Potential benefit to the congregation
- Potential benefit to new populations or communities
- Capacity of the organization to achieve the result outlined
- Evidence of a plan for evaluating the project or program
- Potential for sustainability beyond the grant period
- Evidence of cooperation or collaboration with other organizations
- Evidence of local financial support and the likelihood of future support for the project or program
- Innovation and creativity of the approach

Each request is considered on its own merits. However, the following requests are generally not considered:

- Support for routine facility improvements, maintenance or upkeep
- Multi-year proposals
- Projects that are politically partisan in nature or have a partisan political bias

**Selection Process.** FOTC reviews proposals based on the guidelines stated above. Generally grants will be in the \$2000-\$5000 range. Exceptions may be made in extraordinary circumstances. Notification of grant approval will be made in June with funds distributed in July.

**Documentation.** Mid-term and end-of-year reports are required and are to include both financial and program updates.

**Submit to:** The Future of the Church Area  
Presbytery of Arkansas  
9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.  
Little Rock, AR 72227  
or email to: [purcellbeck@gmail.com](mailto:purcellbeck@gmail.com)

**Questions?** Becky Purcell, cell ph# 479.957.5567, email: [purcellbeck@gmail.com](mailto:purcellbeck@gmail.com)

**Section 1: ABOUT YOUR CHURCH**

Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Clerk of Session: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact for grant application: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive periodic emails about other grant opportunities? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Section 2: PROPOSAL INFORMATION**

1. Please give a 3-5 sentence summary of the project for which you are requesting funding:

2. Number of people who will be served: \_\_\_\_\_ Geographic area served: \_\_\_\_\_

3. List other congregations or organizations with which you will be collaborating or cooperating:

4. Project start date: \_\_\_\_\_ Project end date: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Total church annual income/expenses (of past 3 years):

6. Total church assets (annual report from past 3 years):

7. Total budget for the project for which you're requesting funding: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Dollar amount requested for this grant: \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a minimum amount you could use for this project: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Will you be seeking matching-grant funds? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the deadline for that application? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3: PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

1. What specific needs does this ministry project address? Or, what potential benefit is this project intended to foster?
2. Where do you see God's call in this project? Tell the story of how your congregation developed this project.
3. Who is this project designed to reach—your own community of faith or a new population? Describe the new group you hope to engage or the new community you hope will grow out of this project.
4. What resources—people, spirit, money, talents-- do you currently have for this ministry project and what further resources do you need?
5. How will you evaluate and share the results of this project and your learnings with the Future of the Church Ministry Area and the Presbytery of Arkansas?