

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Conference Vision Fund

(A focus area of the Into the Future by the Spirit's Power Capital Campaign)



The vision fund has been established with proceeds from the Illinois Conference "Into the Future by the Spirit's Power" Capital Campaign.

Funding Criteria

As stipulated by the Illinois Conference Council and the "Into the Future by the Spirit's Power" Capital Campaign Goals the Vision Fund stimulates and funds innovative mission and ministry projects with one-time grants to local churches, Associations, Conference and/or mission partnerships.

Grant proposals should offer a justification consistent with the Illinois Conference Mission Statement.

Statement of Mission

The Illinois Conference is a United Church of Christ covenant community promoting congregational health and vitality and pursuing God's peace and justice.

Core Processes:

Consistent with this mission, the following are the essential core functions of the Illinois Conference:

1. Facilitating communication, participation, reconciliation, justice, and action;
2. Bridging local churches and pastors to concerns and relationships beyond the local church;
3. Training/equipping/supporting leaders and congregations;
4. Identifying and empowering Conference ministries for mission and outreach;
5. Developing and nurturing new churches and churches in transition; and
6. Linking the local churches and members to the national and global ministries of the UCC.

Adopted at Conference Annual Meeting, June, 2009

A Fund Vision project shall be completed within a 24 month period. For the first 3 years, proposals would be sought in the following areas (after which the Conference Council will determine future grant areas):

- **Global Ministry:** Examples might include helping to staff a part-time Conference position to assist in planning and coordinating mission trips; funds for youth participation in global mission/exchange trips; funding a start up mission in relationship with the Conference.
- **Justice Witness Ministries:** Examples might include funding an advocacy project on housing; funding youth/young adult summer leadership (and needed resources) for Bible School opportunities in rural and urban communities where they are not currently offered, with themes of nonviolence, relationship building, caring for earth and global family, etc.
- **Ministry through Technology.** Examples might include providing hardware, software and technological training so that every congregation in the Illinois Conference has access to the Internet and support in utilizing it for ministry; grants for sound equipment for contemporary worship.
- **Local Church Innovative Ministries.** Grants to stimulate such innovative, creative and risk-taking mission and ministry by local churches. One example: an Association might seek a grant to subsidize a grant writer to support local congregations who desire to explore projects in public housing, employment, etc.

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2010 APPLICATION FORM

Date: _____

Name of the Project or Ministry: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Name/Phone/E-mail: _____

This request is from:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| _____ A local church | _____ A group of churches | _____ An Association |
| _____ Illinois Conference | _____ A ministry partner | _____ An affiliated Conference ministry/agency |

Other explain _____

I. Project origination, requested amount and staffing:

- 1) What is the amount of your grant request? \$ _____
- 2) From where does this project originate? _____
- 3) Who wrote the project request and who participated in the project design? _____
- 4) Who will be the beneficiaries of the project (and how will they benefit)? _____
- 5) Who will mentor and staff this project? _____
- 6) What is the time frame for the initiation and completion for this project? _____

II. Project specifics

Please give a brief description of the overall project. _____

Please give two or three major goals or objectives of this project. (what is to be accomplished and by when?)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

III. Project Consistency with Conference Mission Statement and focus areas

1. How is this project/grant request consistent with the Illinois Conference Mission Statement?

2. In what focus area does this request fall under?

_____ Global Ministry _____ Local Church Innovative Ministry
_____ Ministry through Technology _____ Justice and Witness

3. Please state how this ministry relates to the focus area. _____

IV. Budget and Evaluation

Who will evaluate the project, write and submit a project report. _____

The Conference will evaluate each project through stage reporting. Please provide a line-item budget for the project showing what the grant dollars will be used for (include funding from other sources/partners—both monetary and in-kind)

Association Endorsement: (Signature) _____ **Date** _____

Deadline for application is March 1, 2010