

**Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ  
Mission and Outreach Grants**

- Grant Purpose: To fund mission trips or projects which reach outside of the local church.
- Grant Amount: Grants of up to \$6,000 may be requested.
- Eligibility: Any United Church of Christ of the Northern Plains Conference may apply.
- Grant requests will be reviewed by the Mission and Outreach Committee using the following rubric. Additional questions may be asked of finalists.
- Notification of awards will be made on a rolling basis. Churches whose grants are unable to be funded will also be notified.
- Churches receiving grants will report on outcomes of their projects to Mission and Outreach within a year after receiving their grant award. Success stories will be shared further with the Northern Plains Conference UCC.

**M&O Grant Review Rubric**

Criteria	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points
1. The grant purpose addresses a clear <b>faith mission</b> that reaches beyond the local church.	Not included	Purpose stated but not clearly related to the grant intent.	Purpose addresses a faith mission, but not beyond the local church itself.	Purpose addresses a faith mission beyond the local church.	Basis in the faith is compelling and supports the great commission to carry forth the Word in action.
2. Outreach activities serve a <b>specific and compelling need</b> identified in the broader community.	Not included	The need is unclear.	Activities reach a general stated need.	Activities reach a general stated need out in the broader community.	The specified need is important, and meeting it will clearly benefit the broader community.
3. Local church provides <b>substantial commitment</b> from their own time, personnel, and/or other resources in addition to the M&O grant.	Not included	Local church commitment is unclear.	Some individuals in the local church are committed to the project.	Commitment from the local church is clear, but resources may be limited.	Commitment from the local church as a group is evident in broad pledging of their own time, effort and/or other resources.
4. <b>Goals</b> or outcomes are stated and are directly related to achieving the purpose.	Not included	Goals are not related to the stated purpose.	Goals related to purpose but may be insufficient.	Goals stated and address achieving the purpose.	The stated goals are well focused, and very likely to achieve the purpose.
5. <b>How success</b> on the goals will be <b>determined</b> is clearly articulated.	Not included	Indicators of success are not clear or not measurable.	Goals are clearly stated, but measurement unclear.	It can be determined whether goals are impacted.	It can clearly be determined whether the goals have been reached, and to what extent.
6. The <b>timeline and action plan</b> for achieving the goals is practical and doable.	Not included	Action plan or timeline not practical or unclear	Goals are too broad to be reached within the action plan.	Timeline and action plan articulated but do not anticipate obvious obstacles.	The timeline and action plan are systematic, yet adaptable, moving toward project success.
7. A detailed <b>budget</b> is provided, showing how M&O grant funds and local resources will be applied to reach the goals.	Not included	Budget very general or not aligned with goals.	Budget is generally aligned with goals.	Use of funds from M&O and local resources are clearly outlined.	M&O funds and local resources have been usefully assigned to make goal success likely.
8. The grant plan includes how this activity is intended to produce <b>sustainable</b> results, or <b>continuing impact</b> on the broader community.	Not included	Limited continuing impact expected.	Continuing impact is assumed, but not supported by likely results.	Continuing benefit is overstated or reaches beyond the actual activities.	Logical claims are made as to how this grant activity may continue to benefit others beyond the timeline of the grant.
9. A plan is included which shows how the local church will <b>reflect</b> on results and <b>report</b> back to M&O within a year.	Not included	Report-out plan very general.	Local church reflection plan limited to a few individuals.	The reflection plan shows wide support for the local church's mission.	The plan to share results shows a sincere desire to extend and inspire the Mission and Outreach work of the NPCUCC.
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