

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE

SHARING IN MINISTRY AND MISSION ADAPTING TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT

As we continue this need to adapt to doing ministry and mission during this season of change, many congregations may be wrestling with not only rapid changes in worship services and ministry programs, but also in the mission initiatives of the congregation. In this Covid-19 pandemic, we are required AND have the opportunity to serve God in faithfulness in new ways. As a Presbytery, we recognize that some of these transitions to different ways of doing ministry are not without costs during this period of virtual worship and potential drop offs in regular support.

It is tempting to reduce or eliminate mission activities as “non-essential” even though they serve vulnerable populations in the name of Christ. Other short-term decisions on reducing expenses may result in the long-term loss and impact upon the ongoing ministry of God’s Church in your location. Without sufficient cash flow or reserves (if there ever was a time to be flexible on the use of reserves, this is it), these decisions may seem inevitable. Of course, as we share in ministry and mission together, congregations with adequate funds are asked to refrain from applying for these grants or loans and may consider contributing to the emergency assistance funds of the Presbytery.

Consequently, the Presbytery of Redstone will offer the following short term grant and loan programs in order to aid congregations without sufficient reserves to make some of these transitions in ministry.

Ongoing Mission Support in a Pandemic---Grants to fund ongoing mission initiatives of congregations to serve “vulnerable” people in their community to provide basic human needs are immediately available in amounts of up to \$1000. This might include grocery gift cards instead of food bank items or other immediate assistance. A committee or team charged with mission oversight may apply for this grant, or the application may be approved by the session.

Opportunity Ministry and Mission Support in a Pandemic---These grants are to fund any new ministry and mission initiatives (not capital expenditures for equipment) resulting from the opportunities, concerns and needs in this new environment. As new ministry and mission support, the proposals are more than just a replication of the existing activity through new methods (technology, etc.). Grants are available for amounts up to \$1000.

Emergency Loans for Operations---For congregations who are without resources in reserves or other alternatives, the Presbytery offers a no interest short term loan in amounts up to \$3000. These loans would be used to maintain staffing, current ministry, utilities and other operations during this period when the congregation may not be meeting. Loans would be repaid to the Presbytery over a period of 12-15 months.

All grants and loans would be reviewed by an emergency finance team (Moderator, Council Chair, Executive Presbyter, and Treasurer) for approval. Awarding of any grants or loans will be on a first come/first serve basis based upon limitation of funds. Any grants or loans awarded will be distributed to the congregation (not individuals). For the loans a repayment agreement will need to be signed by either the Clerk of Session or the Moderator/Pastor.

Applications are included with this document or are available online through the Presbytery website (redstonepresbytery.org)

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE
COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS REQUEST FORM

Church name: _____ Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

We are applying for:

_____ Ongoing Mission Support _____ Amount (maximum-\$1000)

_____ Opportunity Ministry/Mission Support _____ Amount (maximum \$1000)

_____ Emergency Loans for Operations _____ Amount (maximum \$3000)

Project/Activity Costs (detail): _____

Total: _____

Description of the use of funds: _____

Current Financial situation:

Church Assets (checking, savings, reserves, endowment) _____

Monthly Church Income: normal: _____ now: _____

Monthly Church Expenses: normal: _____ now: _____

Signature (Contact person, Clerk or Moderator)