

**Synod of Southern California and Hawaii**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERING GRANTS PROGRAM  
PROTOCOL**

The Congregational Partnering Grants Program was developed by the Synod in 2005. It allotted an initial \$300,000 per presbytery to be used as a matching grant for funding an outstanding project or projects aimed at new church development or revitalization within each presbytery. An additional \$150,000 per presbytery was allocated in 2013 for the same purpose. The application requirements, when used as matching funds for a particular proposal or application seeking funding from General Assembly Mission Grants and/or Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP), must follow the specific guidelines for the particular program for which application is made. The Synod's Congregational Partnering Grants Program receives proposals for projects that are not funded through the General Assembly Mission Grant Program or Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) and evaluates proposals that are submitted for funding through those programs when a Synod endorsement is required.

**Requirements**

1. Presbyteries and their project(s) being supported must present an action plan outlining full participation in the life of the higher governing bodies on the part of both.
2. The Project(s) being supported is required to participate in Mission Giving to Presbyterian causes annually.
3. Matching Project Funds are not required but their existence will be beneficial to the application decision. In-kind contributions will not be considered as "matching funds" but, again, will be helpful when the project is considered. Synod may issue one lump sum grant per project. In the event such a project is discontinued, then all unused Synod Congregational Partnering Grant Funds are to be returned to the Synod for future use in another project within that Presbytery.
4. All grant applications should be sent to the Synod Office and must include a one-page summary by the presbytery about the planned use of the Synod Congregational Partnering Grant, including:
  - A brief narrative description of the presbytery's involvement in and/or support to the mission of this project, including a statement to support why this project is a presbytery priority.
  - Identify the plan for sustaining leadership, pastoral development and resources, such as finances and talent. Is there a plan for continued support to help ensure sustainability?
  - A project timeline including the desired date(s) for the Synod grant to be received.
  - Other anticipated sources of funding for the project.
5. The plan should also provide the following:

- Documentation of the specific assistance being given by the presbytery (this could be financial, coaching or support of the pastoral leadership, or other means of showing the presbytery's investment in the project).
- How the project will be evaluated by the presbytery.
- A copy of the presbytery action authorizing the application and any use of presbytery resources by the executive body of the presbytery or the presbytery at a stated meeting.

### **Evaluation**

The Commission of Assembly has a Congregational Partnering Grants Work Group that reviews all applications. Members of the Work Group are available for consultation with those in a presbytery who are developing an application. The applicant must be in conversation with the presbytery regarding the proposed project. It is expected in this grant program, as well as those from the General Assembly, that the presbytery has oversight and evaluation responsibilities for the ministries within its boundaries. This includes follow-up oversight to ensure grant funds are being expended for the purpose(s) granted as well as meeting project goals and objectives.

1. The Congregational Partnering Grant Work Group may require a conversation that includes presbytery leadership, as part of the application process to discuss longer-term plans and project sustainability.
2. In order to facilitate timely action by the Synod to coordinate with the General Assembly deadlines, the Work Group may make its recommendation to the Commission of Assembly, which is authorized to act between meetings of the full Synod Assembly. The Work Group may also take its recommendation directly to the Synod Assembly via the Stated Clerk.
3. Monitoring for Success: The Congregational Partnering Grants Work Group will receive copies of and regularly review all progress reports made by the project to the presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly or PILP entities.

### **Grant Application Forms and Resources**

The General Assembly Mission Grant Program has a detailed listing of the types of grants it funds and the criteria needed to be met in order to qualify for funding. There are application forms for each type of grant and instructions for completing the various types of applications. Other resources are also available, including a manual for grant writing. Please refer to the PC(USA) website for this information and the available resources.

<http://www.pcusa.org/search/?criteria=Mission+Grant+Program>

To learn about the offerings from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program: <https://pilp.pcusa.org/>

For other types of proposals, the Congregational Partnering Grants Work Group can provide guidelines for preparing an application. Please contact the Synod for referrals to the Work Group for assistance.