

Mission Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Mission Outreach and Justice Committee (MOJC)
2019 Ministry Grants Funding Guidelines
October 25, 2018

1. MOJC has its own portion of the 2017 assigned Resettlement funds of which some of that money can be used to provide grants funding for 2019 MOJC grant applicants. Resettlement funds were portioned out to our committee (and to other Mission Presbytery Committees) as a result of the settlement agreement with First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio in 2017. The Mission Outreach and Justice Committee received \$36,000 from this settlement agreement. Again, of which some of the remaining balance can be used to provide grants funding for 2019 MOJC grant applicants.
2. In addition, MOJC hopes to receive some additional monies to use for grant funding as was requested in 2019 Mission Presbytery Budget. That amount is expected to be an additional \$24,000.

Mission Presbytery General Council gave the final approval on MOJC's recommendations.

Rationale

In support of mission within Mission Presbytery, we believe:

- That Jesus Christ calls the church to minister to those who are poor, hungry, despairing, oppressed or suffering from injustice.
- That sharing in mission work with others is a desirable witness to the oneness of Christ's grace, love and ministry, and that sharing in mission with those of other faiths opens new opportunities for mutual understanding and the maturing of faith.
- That it is God's will for Christians to be involved in mission not only with financial resources but also with love, mercy, compassion, and justice.

Overview

A very limited number of annual grants may be made to any Mission Presbytery Committee, worship community, new church development, or mission partner of Mission Presbytery. In addition, agencies and entities in which Mission Presbytery as a body maintains membership (examples: Texas Conference of Churches, Texas Impact) are also eligible for grants. Any Non-profits making a grant application that are associated with any of the above will also be considered. New initiatives may be given priority in grant evaluations. Grant applications are evaluated by the Mission Outreach and Justice Committee (MOJC). MOJC makes funding recommendations to Mission Presbytery General Council.

Mission Grants Application Process

The application process serves to identify and support programs or projects (hereafter projects) worthy of the participation and support of our member congregations. These projects shall be located within the bounds of Mission Presbytery, along either side of the border with Mexico, and in other countries where Mission Presbytery or its churches have an active partnership relationship.

The Ministry Outreach and Justice Commission of Mission Presbytery employs the following criteria in considering mission projects for possible funding and support:

1. The project shall demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed and shall be a valid response to God's will as affirmed in the *Rationale* above.

2. Those working in the project shall understand that Mission Presbytery considers the project to be an instrument of its ministry outreach in the love of Jesus Christ.

3. There shall be some participation in the project by Presbyterians living within the bounds of Mission Presbytery.

4. MOJC may request a site visit before funding is granted and/or during the term of a grant.

5. Since the Presbytery, through its outreach efforts, seeks effectiveness in the work of the Church, as well as good intentions, the Mission Outreach and Justice Committee (MOJC) will review grant applications according to these additional criteria:

- The project shall be working in an area of clearly identifiable need.
- The project shall exhibit competent management of its affairs.
- There shall be evidence of enthusiasm and dedication among those engaged in the work.
- Whenever possible, the project should involve persons from the community serving in the planning and execution of the project, including development of leadership and financial support.
- The project shall have specific written goals including plans for their achievement and methods for assessment of progress.
- The past record, if any, of the project shall demonstrate accomplishments related to its purposes.

Nonprofits, [other than PC(USA) affiliated churches] making a grant application must submit a copy of:

- o Annual operating budget and project budget when appropriate
- o Tax Exemption Letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- o The most recently filed IRS Form 990 including Schedule A.
- o The most recent independent financial review or audit. The audit/review must cover a period ending no earlier than 18 months prior to the application deadline. Agencies with an annual income of \$750,000 or more must submit an audit.

For grants selected for funding, a short article (preferably with photos) and suitable for publication in Mission Presbytery Weekly news must be sent to the MOJC within 60 days from the time the grantee is notified of funding. The well –edited article should summarize in as short a way as possible the project described in the funded grants projects and also describe how the grant furthers the mission of the Presbytery. The article should be written in an engaging, clear, creative & concise manner suitable for publication on Mission Presbytery’s website or for distribution in an emailed newsletter.

Failure to provide complete documentation as stated above may result in disqualification from grants evaluation process.

Additional opportunities: Your project may be eligible for an additional grant fund being administered by Mission Presbytery called the Better Together Fund. The Better Together Funded grants are approved by the Stewardship Team, the General Council Leadership Team and the General Council. The Better Together Fund encourages more than one group to participate together, collaborate. Collaboration is not a requirement of MOJC’s grant applicants; though we encourage it. Our committee’s only involvement with the Better Together Fund is that we may be asked to endorse an applicant to the Fund. Our committee does not make funding decisions for Better Together Applicants. Only endorsements.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tom O’Meara, Moderator, Mission Outreach and Justice Committee, Mission Presbytery
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