

Dear Friends;

The Creative Ministry Grants are a way in which our churches can seek to do new and different missions in their own communities that they might not try on their own because of financial constraints. The name of the grants says it all – they are creative ideas which will likely challenge congregations to do things that they may not have considered in the past and is also a challenge to do ministry with another congregation. One of the main focuses of the grants will be churches working together to serve Christ in ways that have not been tried before. For example, the First Presbyterian Church in Webb City, MO and the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Joplin, MO might decide that they would like to feed First Responders once a week and so First and Bethany together would write a grant proposal describing that mission and submit it as a Creative Ministry Grant Proposal to General Council.

These grants will be given at least once a year to churches that apply using the application posted on line. The grant applications, which are due on June 15, 2018 will be read by the members of General Council and approved or disapproved at their July meeting. This will enable the grants to be awarded at the August meeting of Presbytery.

What is a creative ministry? It is a ministry that reaches out to the community or communities served by the congregation(s) who apply for the grant. This ministry could be something new and different from what has been tried before and it is encouraged that churches work together with one another for this ministry. While working with another Presbyterian church would be desired, we realize that some communities do not have that option so ecumenical endeavors would be acceptable. The grant application also need to include a budget so we can get an idea of how the monies will be utilized for mission. Some examples of creative ministry are; an outreach to unwed teenage mothers, school supply distribution, English as a Second Language courses, a woodworking shop for retired people who have given up their own shops, cooking classes for low income children. The list could go on and on.

It is important to note that these grants are not to be used for salaries or capital improvements. We are looking forward to reading your applications and are excited to see how God is leading you to do mission in your church.