



THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**New Initiatives Fund Grant Guidelines**

Created in 2012, the New Initiatives Fund (NIF) encourages experimentation and innovation throughout the Conference, in keeping with our core values of 'innovation' and 'empowerment.'

**Eligibility:**

- Applicant must be a recognized ministry of the Conference, which includes Conference Board, Annual Meeting, committees, work groups, teams, staff and churches.
- Applicants may receive only one grant per calendar year.
- Applicants who are part of a multi-entity collaboration receiving a grant, such as a multi-church collaboration, are also eligible to receive their own grant.

**Decision Making:**

- The Conference Minister is the New Initiatives Fund Grant decision-maker. In the case of Conference staff grant applications, the Conference Minister will seek input from the Moderator and/or the Development Committee.
- Selected project/ministry must fall in line with the Conference's Bold Inspirational Goals: leadership development for clergy and laity; healthy, vital congregations; faith formation for all; and increased capacity for compassionate service and prophetic witness.
- Selected project/ministry must be innovative and/or experimental.
- Multi-church collaboration will be given special consideration.
- The calendar year annual NIF grant total will be approved by the Conference Board based on a recommendation from the Development Committee.

**Funding:**

- Grants may be up to \$1,000
- Application deadline is rolling each year. Grants are available until the annual allocated funds are depleted.
- Applicants will be notified whether they will receive a grant with two weeks of receipt of application. Grant check will be sent within one month of grant being awarded.
- The Development staff will be responsible for actively fundraising to replenish the NIF.

**Promotion and Monitoring:**



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- Each year the Conference Moderator will determine who is responsible for promoting the NIF grants, the Development Committee, an At-Large Board member or an Associate Conference Minister are possibilities.
- Each year the Conference Moderator will determine who is responsible for following-up on grants, the Development Committee or an At-Large Board member are possibilities.

*Approved March 1, 2014*

*Updated June 2016*