



The Synod of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS NETWORK

Matthew 25 Ministry Grants

Grant Application Information

Complete Applications are due by: September 30, 2024¹

ELIGIBILITY

Matthew 25 Synod Grants are available to Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations and institutions within the Synod of the Covenant. Congregations that share ministry with non-PC(USA) institutions and organizations within the geographic bounds of the Synod of the Covenant may also apply to fund the ministry contributed by the church. The congregation must submit the Matthew 25 Grant application, rather than the non-PCUSA institutions or organizations.

The purpose of the grant must specifically be Christian in focus and adhere to the objectives of the PC(USA) Matthew 25 Initiative². Special consideration will be given to churches, ministries, and institutions which are primarily composed of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and/or whose proposals are engaging with their neighborhood context and focusing on systemic change.

Projects must directly address at least one of the three Matthew 25 mission priorities of the Synod of the Covenant:

- **Building congregational vitality.** The PCUSA highlights these seven marks of congregational vitality: lifelong discipleship, evangelism, outward-focused ministry, servant leadership, worship, caring relationships, healthy systems. *Applications which focus on one or more of these specific marks will be more successful than those that do not.*
- **Dismantling structural racism.** Structural racism causes communities and individuals of color to experience inequality in accessing money, land, housing, education, health, information, and social power. *Applications which focus on*

¹ Letter of Endorsement by Executive Presbyter or Stated Clerk of Presbytery due October 7, 2024.

² For more information about these three goals, please visit [Presbyterian Mission Agency Matthew 25 in the PC\(USA\): A bold vision and invitation | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#)

addressing this racism in tangible ways will be more successful than those which simply build awareness.

- **Eradicating systemic poverty.** Systemic Poverty refers to the economic exploitation of the poor through laws, policies, practices, and systems that perpetuate their impoverished status. *Applications which focus on the root causes of poverty will be more successful than those which focus on immediate/crisis care for the poor.*

Grants are awarded on the strength of the application and preference will be given to applications from congregations, institutions and organizations who have not applied previously. Continuing grants for completion of a project may also be considered.

The grant awarded may be up to \$5000.00 annually. Grants must be applied for every year. Evidence of institutional or congregational financial support for the project is strongly recommended.

Grants may be used for either capital expenditures or program materials and costs, but not staffing. A formal evaluation of the project is due to the Synod Grants Committee the fall of the following year in advance of that year's grants being awarded.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please review the informational and instructional video, "[Applying for a Synod of the Covenant Matthew 25 Grant.](#)"
- Please see the website (here) for recent examples of applications that did an outstanding job addressing Matthew 25 initiatives.
- Read each application prompt carefully and create a header for each prompt. Applications that do not concisely answer each prompt will not be considered. If you cannot answer each prompt, consider whether or not your project is truly a Matthew 25 project.
- Applications and all requested materials, as well as an endorsement letter from pastor or moderator/clerk of session or Executive Director/Board Chair of PC(USA) Institution, must be submitted together to receive consideration by the grant review committee.
- Application must include a letter of endorsement/reference (not attestation) from the Presbytery leader (Executive or General Presbyter or Stated Clerk) and sent under separate cover by the writer from the application packet, due directly to grants@synodofthecovenant.org by October 7, 2024. The Synod Grants Committee strongly recommends ongoing conversations with Presbytery leadership during the application process in an effort to submit a strong proposal.
- Applications will be reviewed beginning October 8, 2024.

- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered nor will they be carried forward automatically.
- Applicants will need to reapply for the next cycle to be eligible for funding.

Questions can be addressed to Rev. Amy Duiker at aduiker@sugarcreekchurch.org.

SYNOD OF THE COVENANT MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY GRANT
APPLICATION FORM

Applicant Information

Name of Applying Church/PC(USA) Institution:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Institution Information:

Pastor/Director:

Clerk of Session (if church):

Associated Presbytery:

First Time Applicant? Yes/No _____

When and for what projects did you apply for another synod grant? Did you receive one?

Person Responsible for Administering the Grant

Name and role within the Church/PC(USA) Institution:

Role in grant project:

Phone:

Email:

Which priority/priorities of the Matthew 25 initiative will your grant project seek to address?

- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty
- Building congregational vitality

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

I. Project Information, Description, and Goals (please include a header for each question or your application may be rejected)

1. Project title:
2. Summarize the plan for the project.
3. Describe the community who will be served.
4. Describe and explain the need in the community that will be addressed.
5. Briefly describe how this project aligns with the Matthew 25 priorities you identified on the application form.
6. What other specifics about the project would be helpful for us to know?

II. Project Evaluation (please include a header for each question or your application may be rejected)

1. Summarize how the organization will evaluate the project.
2. What exact indicators will be used to determine if the project has been successful?
3. Please include any data or documents that support your project and its evaluation.

III. Project's Proposed Costs (please include a header for each prompt or your application may be rejected)

1. Include detailed budget information for the project including itemized expenses and actual or anticipated income from any other sources.
2. Amount requested from Synod of the Covenant (up to \$5,000):
3. Will this project continue beyond the grant period (November 2025)?

Questions can be addressed to Rev. Amy Duiker aduiker@sugarcreekchurch.org.

Complete grant application must be received by September 30, 2024 and must include the following materials:

- Application form
- Attachment answering application questions
- Letter of affirmation from Pastor and/or Clerk of Session of associated congregation or Executive Director and/or Board Chair of PC(USA) Institution.
- Letter of endorsement/reference (not attestation) from the Presbytery leadership sent under separate cover by the writer. (Due by October 7, 2024, to grants@synodofthecovenant.org)

Applications can be completed and uploaded at www.synodofthecovenant.org/grants, or completed applications may be emailed to grants@synodofthecovenant.org.

Please contact the Synod Grants and Scholarships Committee using the following information:

Grants and Scholarship Committee
The Synod of the Covenant
grants@synodofthecovenant.org
248-729-2415