

## **GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL and SUSTAINING PROGRAM GRANTS**

**SPECIAL PROGRAM GRANTS** are designed for local church programs outside of normal conference and local church funding processes. They are intended to provide funding for the first three years of innovative programs of tangible and caring outreach that is beyond a local church's current financial resources. They are for churches of all ethnic groups and should help the church requesting the funding to relate to the ethnic groups within its community.

The purpose of these grants is to encourage churches of all ethnic groups to move from an emphasis on self-care to an emphasis on reaching out into the local community in the name of Christ. In every ethnic group, vital and creative outreach ministries by United Methodist churches produce vital, self-sufficient, and growing local churches. Because it is important that outreach ministries have the support of the whole church, the church council or other appropriate body must approve the project prior to submission for a grant request.

These grants are for program expenses and not for building projects. Program expenses would include "consumables" necessary to facilitate a particular ministry and only under the most unusual of circumstances include salaries or compensation for workers or coordinators of the ministries beyond the local church.

A project will not be funded for more than three years, and must apply for the grant each year. All local church programs should strive for self-sufficiency within the three-year period. Funding is paid in each quarter; fourth quarter funding is contingent upon the receipt of a satisfactory report from the project. If a report is not received, the fourth-quarter payment cannot be made.

Please note that no application will be considered without the District Superintendent's approval and signature. Applications are available online at <https://vaumc.org/special-and-sustaining-grants/> The deadline for 2023 funding applications is October 15, 2022.

**SUSTAINING PROGRAM GRANTS** are designated for ministries which have received three years' funding through the Special Program Grants and have not achieved self-sufficiency. However, receiving funding through the Special Grants program does not guarantee the award of a Sustaining Grant.

As with Special Program Grants, these grants are for program expenses and not for building projects. Program expenses would include "consumables" necessary to facilitate a particular ministry and only under the most unusual of circumstances include salaries or compensation for workers or coordinators of the ministries beyond the local church.

Funding is paid in each quarter; fourth quarter funding is contingent upon the receipt of a satisfactory report from the project. If a report is not received, the fourth-quarter payment cannot be made.

Please note that no application will be considered without the District Superintendent's approval. Applications are available online at [www.vaumc.org/CommonTableGrants](http://www.vaumc.org/CommonTableGrants). The deadline for 2023 funding applications is October 15, 2022.