



FOTC Grant Guidelines s Application 2024

Purpose of the Future of the Church committee. The Future of the Church (FOTC) committee of the Presbytery of Arkansas serves as a catalyst to engage congregations and Presbytery Ministry Areas in creative thinking and planning beyond current models of ministry and programming. The Future of the Church committee assists with visioning, branding, technology, and development of new ministries and supports new church developments of the Presbytery.

Purpose of the Grants. There are two aims of the FOTC grants: (1) supporting congregations in extending their ministries to reach new communities or populations, as well as; (2) encouraging congregational growth, vitality and mission.

Eligibility and Timeframe. The FOTC is accepting one year proposals from Presbyterian churches within the Presbytery of Arkansas. Completed Application Forms will be received from **February 15 - April 15**. The funding year is from August 1 to July 30. Funding may be applied for again, for a total of three years.

Application Guidelines. The following factors are considered although not exclusively in reviewing proposals:

- Potential benefit to the congregation
- Potential benefit to new populations or communities Capacity of your organization to achieve the result outlined Evidence of a plan for evaluating the project or program Potential for sustainability beyond the grant period
- Evidence of cooperation or collaboration with other organizations Innovation and creativity of the approach
- Evidence of support for at least one of the 3 prongs of the Matthew 25 Initiative: Building Congregational Vitality; Dismantling Structural Racism; Eradicating Systematic Poverty.

Each request is considered on its own merits. The following requests would generally be denied:

- Support for routine facility improvements, maintenance or upkeep.
- Multi-year proposals
- Projects that are partisan (i.e. favor one political party over another). For example, a project aimed at expanding the child income tax credit which reduces poverty without favoring one party or another, would be considered. A project that sends money to a political party to support the issue would not be considered. We will support projects aimed at dismantling structural racism and/or ending systematic poverty that rise above partisan interests.

Selection Process. FOTC reviews proposals based on the guidelines stated above. Generally, grants will be in the \$2000-\$5000 range. Notification of grant approval will be made in June with funds distributed in July.

Documentation. The FOTC expects a year-end project report so that the grants news can be shared with the Presbytery.

To submit or ask questions - Email: Cindy Lanphear, chair of the Future of the Church Committee, cjlanphear@ca-mfg.com. Or, if you know someone on the FOTC committee, they can answer questions also. You can also call: 479-979-7160.

Section 1: ABOUT YOUR CHURCH

Name of Pastor: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Name of Clerk of Session: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Name of contact for grant application: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Section 2: PROPOSAL INFORMATION

- 1. Please give a 3-5 sentence summary of the project for which you are requesting funding:
- 2. Number of people who will be served: _____ Geographic area served: _____
- 3. List other congregations or organizations with which you will be collaborating or cooperating (briefly, how?):
- 4. Project start date: _____ Project end date: _____
- 5. Total budget for the project for which you're requesting funding: _____
- 6. Dollar amount requested for this grant including an itemized budget: _____

Section 3: PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. What specific community and/or church needs does this ministry project address? Or, what potential benefit is this project intended to foster?
2. Where do you see God's call in this project? Tell the story of how your congregation developed this project.
3. Who is this project designed to reach—your own church or a new community or population? If a new population, describe the new group you hope to engage or the new community you hope will grow out of this project.
4. What resources—people, spirit, money, talents-- do you currently have for this ministry project and what further resources do you need?
5. How will you evaluate and share the results of this project and your learnings with the Future of the Church Committee and the Presbytery of Arkansas?