**New Spiritual Communities and ReNewing Churches: CASA Grant Program Application for 2019**

**Deadline:**September 07 2018 at 05:00 PM EDT

This word document is meant for YOUR USE ONLY, and reflects only the Short Answer Questions. Only applications submitted via SmarterSelect will be considered.   
<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/40547-United-Church-Of-Christ>

**1. Contact Information** (Form available to fill out in SmarterSelect)

**2. Background Information about Ministry**

**Mission Statement and Vision**

Please enter the Vision and/or Mission statements for this ministry/spiritual community:



How much of this idea comes directly from the spiritual leader?   
%



Who or what are the sources of input to your ministry idea, other than the spiritual leader? Please describe the process by which you gained their input.



Max Number of Words: 200

Using a timeline: describe what a summary of this ministry, and what the hoped impact of it will be on both the congregation and the local community.



Max Number of Words: 200

Articulate succinct SMART goals for your community in 1 and 3 years.

*Setting SMART goals allows you the best chances of success. SMART goals are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time bound.   
  
Specific: "I will host 10 community meals" not "I will feed the community."   
  
Measurable: Usually a number is involved - dollars, days, times per week, people engaged. It will be easy to see if you have achieved your goal.   
  
Achievable: Can be accomplished through a series of actionable tasks, and is within your control (Not, "I will win the lottery.")   
  
Relevant: Consistent with resolutions passed by General Synod, and/or researched within the grant context.   
  
Time Bound: Includes a start date and a deadline.*

The three year vision for our spiritual community as articulated in SMART goals is:



In order to actualize our three year vision, we have the following SMART goals for year one:



Be sure that these SMART goals support progress toward your three year vision as articulated above, and are tied to your budget presentation.

In order to actualize our three year vision, we have the following SMART goals for year two:



Be sure that these SMART goals support progress toward your three year vision as articulated above, grow from year one, and are tied to your budget presentation.

**Demographic Information**

What methods of inquiry and research into the intended community to be served has this ministry already done? What was learned as a result of the research?



interviews, appreciative inquiry, mission insite, surveys, et cetera.

The community being served predominantly identifies with the following race and/or ethnic community:

*  White/Euro-American
*  African-American
*  Latinx/Hispanic
*  Asian/Pacific Islander
*  Multicultural/Multiracial
*  Indigenous/Native American
*  Other



How do people in the community served self-identify around intersectional identities? (class, race, gender, sexual orientation, et cetera)



How does the leader of the ministry reflect the community being served in terms of intersectional identities?



**Grant Nuts & Bolts**

Which statement describes your ministry better?

 We are a brand new spiritual community, either stand alone, or supported by an existing congregation.

 We are an existing church applying for a specific project of renewal.

CASA grants are up to $40,000 if the project includes matching sources.   
If you are applying without matching sources, CASA grants are up to $20,000 and are intended for ministries in the early stages of development.   
  
This application is for how much funding?

$

This should clearly reflect the performa budget, you have attached above.

If you are applying for a matching grant for EXISTING Congregations in Renewal:   
Please note that pre-existing tithes and commitments may not be counted towards your matching funds. You will need unique income streams specifically designated for this purpose.   
  
If you are applying for a matching grant for a BRAND NEW Spiritual Community:   
Please note that any income can be matched, including the tithed income of your participants.

Has the spiritual community or its leader ever received a UCC grant before?   
  
If so, please indicate: which grant, when and how much was received, and a sentence about the impact that grant had on the ministry.



Max Number of Words: 300

If you have received previous funding from us before at any point, please attach a **succinct** **one page report** of the impact of the previous grant(s), with specific reference to the stated goals of the previous grant(s).   
  
What difference was made? How was the funding used to make an impact? Did you experience any unanticipated impacts?

Maximum File Size: 20MB, Accepted file types: .doc, .pdf

(.doc or .pdf files accepted.)

Have you applied for other grants? If so, from whom, and for how much?



This will help us compile a list of resources to be made available to all of our churches in the write-up. Even if you don't yet know the response, or it was a "no," it is helpful to know.

Do you have access to any funds (endowments, savings, or investments) other than what is reflected in your budget performa above? If so, please describe the source and the amount.



(Note: we cross-reference with amounts reported for the UCC Yearbook.)

Attach an Excel Budget of Revenue and Expense for this ministry and/or project by [clicking here to download a proforma to edit and save with your name.](http://www.ucc.org/grantbudgetexample" \t "_blank)

*If this ministry is supported by an existing congregation, also indicate what that congregation is contributing directly in the columns as indicated in the proforma.   
  
If this ministry is applying for the Matching Grant, please indicate the income streams clearly which expect to be matched.   
  
Include all columns as indicated.   
List Expenses by line item.   
  
This budget should show BOTH circumstances: what will happen if you do NOT receive this grant, as well as what it will be if you DO.   
  
Upload the edited proforma here:*

**3. Short Answer Application Questions**

**Short Answer Application Questions:**

**Opportunity and Assessment in your ministry**

What specific opportunity or possibility this ministry is seeking to create?



Max Number of Words: 200

How will this ministry create and sustain the opportunity/possibility envisioned?



Max Number of Words: 200

Other than SMART goals, if your ministry has metrics that help assess whether the ministry is effective, please describe them here.



Max Number of Words: 200

Briefly describe the existing efforts within the local community to solve the problem outlined. How is this approach better or different?



Max Number of Words: 400

Describe both the CONDITIONS (e.g. hungry people) and ROOT CAUSES (e.g economic injustice) that this ministry will engage?



Max Number of Words: 200

**The Leader, the Ministry, and the Community**

For the leader: How is this ministry work an extension of yourself? In what ways are you challenging yourself, personally, and how are YOU on the line?



Max Number of Words: 200

How do you gather? What describes the community you seek to build? (for an example, see the report "How We Gather" available at <https://www.howwegather.org/> other language is acceptable, as well.)



Max Number of Words: 200

Share an understanding of the community’s definition of sacred Love. "Love is..."   
Who are the parties involved, and how does each hold each other accountable?



Max Number of Words: 200

Who (plural) can say Amen to this project?



Be as creative as you'd like in answering this question. These can be the saints, community partners, and/or individuals that are deeply impacted by the ministry visioned.

Max Number of Words: 200

How does this community see itself connecting to something greater?   
Who are the ancestors/mentors/forebears from whom guidance is sought?



Something greater could be God language. Ancestors gives a picture of evolution in thought as well as community.

Max Number of Words: 200

**A Just World For All; through your community's work**

Justice is connected to the community surrounding in the building of coalitions and partnerships; so the faith community is also facing outward.   
Who are the partners and collaborators in the enactment of justice in this context, and how do they work together with the ministry?



Max Number of Words: 200

How does or will this faith community bring about a Just World for All?



Max Number of Words: 200

Justice speaks truth to power, and is what God’s love looks like publicly.   
How does this ministry communicate truth to those who are in power in your wider community?



Max Number of Words: 200

**Support**

For the leader: What support do you, personally, have that will enable you to press through the joyful, yet challenging realities of implementing this ministry?



Max Number of Words: 400

**4. References**

We recommend reaching out to potential references *first* to familiarize them with your ministry, as well as ask for their support.

**Your application will not be considered if your references are not in by the deadline.**