

Fall 2021: UCC Volunteer Ministries Booster Grant Information

"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." 2 Corinthians 4:1

United Church of Christ Volunteer Ministries, part of Wider Church Ministries' Global H.O.P.E. Team, is offering eight (8) one-time booster grants to invigorate Service Learning ministries.

This is a quick-moving application process, designed to award grants this fall for grantees' implementation beginning in 2022.

Ideal applicants are United Church of Christ organizations dedicated to empowering young adult leaders: congregations, judicatories, Outdoor Ministry Association sites, campus ministries, instrumentalities and/or UCC affiliated ministries. Priority will be given to programs that were previously operating in collaboration with Volunteer Ministries. All are welcome to apply.

Awards will be assessed and granted by the Global H.O.P.E. Team in line with our regular grant-making ministry protocols. This is not an application for individual volunteers to receive fellowships.

Booster Grants for Summer of Service 2022: Four (4) \$2,500 awards

Global H.O.P.E. is slated for a partnership with the Outdoor Ministries Association to relaunch Summer of Service programs. Designed for young adults 18-25+ who want to experience independence through service learning and gain work skills within a UCC community, this program will serve eight young people at four different Outdoor Ministries Association sites. College not expected; this program is intended to serve young adults with diverse vocational goals.

Booster Grants for Academic Year Programs: Four (4) \$5,000 Awards

Ideal applicants are local churches, judicatories, or UCC-affiliated organizations **prepared to sponsor** young adults 21-29+ for a pre-professional internship in a UCC workspace, which may be a virtual workspace. Considering the timing of academic schedules, the fellows' time of service may begin as early as January 2022 and conclude as late as the end-of-June 2023.

The Fellow will simultaneously learn and serve, both receiving wisdom and giving substantial effort. Each organization must designate a staff person to mentor the fellow and participate in the Leaders' Circle hosted by Global H.O.P.E. Both programs depend on the heartfelt dedication of a key leader in the sponsoring church or camp who cares about mentoring young adults into faithful leadership.

More About the Purpose of Booster Grants

Engaging young people in service is an honored tradition of the United Church of Christ, and one that builds the culture of engagement that our denomination expresses in a rich diversity of ministries. The goal of both summer and academic year programs is to:

- Place promising leaders into volunteer service.
- Invest in their future capacity for faith-based leadership.
- Strengthen the volunteers around them by their example of dedication.

Grants provide immediate financial support for host organizations along with a Leaders' Circle to build capacity and accountability.

To build involvement in service via our UCC young adult volunteer programs, quick action is needed to re-establish capacity among the local leaders who ran or will run these programs.

Ideal applicants are churches and UCC organizations

Our preferred recipients are organizations, included congregational clergy who are stretched beyond reason by the pandemic and camp directors whose programs were endangered by the pandemic.

What expectations do the applicant organizations need to fulfill?

All organizations will identify a single leader to manage the fellowship in the local setting and relate both to the National Ministries and with the other leaders in a "circle." The Leaders' Circle embeds UCC Mission Priorities into the programs, providing access to leadership training for all program directors that emphasizes anti-racism (Inclusive Excellence), tech and virtual volunteering (Tech and Curriculum), and expanding the leadership pool in the UCC (Strategy and Innovation). The format will be monthly Zoom classes featuring leadership within the UCC. *See also: Reporting Requirements.*

Information Required for Application (See link to online application, below)

- 1) Overview of your previous program and current plan to re-launch your ministry.
- 2) Biography of the leader in charge of fellows.
- 3) Copy of 501(c)3 or Fiscal Agent information.
- 4) Description of the learning opportunities available to fellows in your setting. Who is an ideal candidate to be a learning and serving fellow in your setting?
- 5) Information about other sources of support/funding and amounts. Who will partner to fund this project?
- 6) Prospective budget.
- 7) Signed W-9.
- 8) Letter of endorsement from your Conference or Association Minister.

Reporting Requirements

Grant recipients will participate in the Leaders' Circle, a learning and serving peer group of all recipients. Meetings will be held monthly in 2022 via video conference. Leaders will deliver a capstone presentation to the Leaders' Circle and submit a written report within 30 days of project completion. Reports must include the following:

- 1) Final budget outlining how funds were used.
- 2) Description of the project outcomes and impact.
- 3) Photos and personal stories from the fellows and contact information for our writer/staff to obtain story.

LINK TO ONLINE GRANT APPLICATION:

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/76950-United-Church-Of-Christ>