

GRANT GUIDELINES

I. VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION GRANTS

Mission Statement:

The United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference Grants Committee exists for the primary purpose of making financial awards for proposals, projects, ministries, programs and activities at the CONFERENCE and DISTRICT LEVEL of the Virginia Conference. The committee will conscientiously attempt to communicate with district and conference leadership to better ascertain and understand district and conference needs and opportunities that have the capacity/potential of enriching many or all local churches or affiliated agencies of the Virginia Conference.

II. THE MICAH 6:8/NO HARM DO GOOD ENDOWMENT GRANT

“God has told you, human one, what is good and what is required of you: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Mission Statement:

It is the donor's desire that special care be directed to fulfill the stated purpose through outreach and ministry to persons or groups of persons outside the United Methodist Church in hope of changing lives and transforming the world. This fund is not to replace or establish the giving of funds to church members or persons coming to a local church for assistance. Nor is it to be used for evangelism. Guiding the discernment process for the distribution of funds is Micah 6:8 and a similar focus from United Methodist heritage, John Wesley's Three General Rules: “Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.”

III. THE DR. WILLIAM J. AND FRANCES HANNA MEMORIAL GRANT

Mission Statement:

The Dr. William J. and Frances Hanna Memorial Grant of The United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference exists for the primary purpose to fund one special initiative annually that can maximize impact in the broadest context. This grant is designed with a special focus on creating a new strategic ministry initiative that could have potential for wide impact across the Virginia Conference. Funds may be used in any variety of directions for clergy or lay; for local church planting and for revitalization.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

All applicants should review the mission of each grant prior to applying. This will assist you in appropriately selecting the grant in which you wish to apply. If your program is eligible for more than one per the mission statement descriptions, you may apply for more than one grant. Please follow the instructions identified in the section “GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS” for thoroughly completing the application and successful submission. Other considerations include:

1. Grants will not be made to a local church for salary supplement, remodeling of building structure, making ADA accessible modifications to buildings, building repair, replacement – including furnaces, and air conditioners.

Grants will not be awarded as a funding source for perpetually funding any specific ongoing program, activity, or ministry of a local church. Continued or multi-year funding may be available but will be reviewed annually by the grants committee to affirm continued funding.

1. Grants may be awarded to a church, a district or the Conference for the purpose of targeting, enhancing, or expanding their ministries that may enrich multiple local churches within a district or the Virginia Conference or all local churches or affiliated agencies exclusively within the bounds of the Virginia Conference.
2. Grants may be awarded for activities that are an integral part of a district or the Virginia Conference outreach program in keeping with the mission of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.
3. The Foundation typically awards grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000. To serve as many qualified applicants as possible, grant awards may be less than the amount requested.
4. Applications previously submitted and not approved may be revised and re-submitted the following year.
5. Grant awards will be made once a year. Applications must be submitted to Foundation grants committee by October 31, 2025. The decision of The Virginia United Methodist Foundation Board is final for all grant awards submitted for funding.
6. Each Grantee will be required to give at least a 250-word status report on how the funds were used to the grants committee. Failure to do so could affect receipt of future grant awards.

GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

In preparing your grant application, please read and follow these instructions carefully. Incomplete or improperly prepared applications may be eliminated for review. An application will be considered incomplete if: (1) it is not prepared and submitted according to instructions; or (2) the information it contains is not sufficient to permit an adequate review.

Deadline for Receipt of Completed Application

Please note that no application will be considered without the corresponding district superintendent's approval and signature (not applicable for Micah Grant applicants). Applications are available online at www.vaumfoundation.org/about-us/grants. The application must be RECEIVED on or before the deadline date of **October 31, 2025 at 5:00 pm**. You may submit a completed application and attachments:

- 1.) Via the online form available at www.vaumfoundation.org/about-us/grants (preferred method).
- 2.) If you have any questions, please contact us at foundationgrants@vaumc.org.

General Submission Guidelines

SECTION I:

- In the first line, please identify the grant for which you are applying. If your program is eligible for more than one per the grant guidelines, you may check more than one grant. However, before applying, please visit vaumfoundation.org/about-us/grants and review the guidelines and mission statements associated with each available grant. This will assist you in appropriately selecting the grant in which you wish to apply.
- Please complete all information for the primary point of contact responsible for the grant application.
- The following field explanations may assist you in accurately completing your application.
 - *"Name of Proposal/Ministry Requesting Grant"*: This should be the name of the actual program who would be receiving a grant.
 - *Church Affiliation/Related Entity*: This should identify which local United Methodist Church within The Virginia Conference or United Methodist Organization your program is associated with for operations.
District: This field should identify which District within the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church in which you are affiliated.

SECTION II:

- Please identify the amount of funds you are requesting with this grant application. Also, please estimate the total funding required in 2025 for this project or ministry. The total funding number can be the same amount or of greater value to the amount of funds you are requesting. You can further elaborate on your grant request within the additional attachments, including the Projected 2025 Budget and Timeline.
- Please answer all applicable questions thoroughly and to the best of your ability so that the Foundation grants committee can adequately review the qualifications of your project for a grant.
- For Questions #4-6, you may attach additional documentation if needed to sufficiently answer the questions. Please make sure to answer all essay questions.
- Attach the following documents to your application:
 - Mission and/or vision statement.
 - A detailed ministry plan (implementation plan) - strategies, methodologies, etc; if your project has received funding for more than three years, please include an explanation of how previous Foundation grants have assisted in programmatic growth and why future funding is necessary for the program.
 - Projected 2025 Budget and timeline to include all sources of funding; please make sure to include all sources of funding in your budget that may have already been identified on the application.
 - If applying for the *Micah 6:8 Grant*, please explain how these funds will help acts of justice, mercy and kindness.

SECTION III:

- A fully executed signature page, including the district superintendent's signature (not applicable for Micah grant applicants), must be attached to the application.

Application Evaluation

After the application deadline, all materials are reviewed by the Foundation grants committee. The committee then makes a recommendation about recipient awards to the full board of directors to be voted on at the December board meeting. Should your program or ministry receive an award, you will be notified in the month of January via correspondence from Foundation staff.

Please contact us at foundationgrants@vaumc.org if you have any questions about Foundation grants or the grant application process.