

*We equip spiritual leaders to make disciples*

*and grow vital congregations to transform the world.*

**Agency Funding Application**

**Overview**

***Why do we exist?***

We believe God’s love heals and transforms lives. God’s love is encountered in disciples of Jesus who passionately share faith, hope and justice in the community. Vital congregations form and shape passionate disciples. We equip spiritual leaders to grow vital congregations and make disciples so that God’s love heals and transforms the world.

***What is our commitment?***

GNJ is committed to resource the work of ministries that support the development of transformational lay and clergy leadership and our strategic plan to grow vital congregations. Equipped and vital leaders and congregations are powerful witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the region.

***What is a vital congregation?***

Vital Congregations are inwardly transformed and missionally outbound. Vital congregations are Spirit‐ filled, forward-leaning communities of believers that grow over time, welcome all people (Galatians 3:28); make disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18‐20); and serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries (Micah 6:8 and Luke 4:17‐21).

***What happens in vital congregations?***

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| **Life-Changing Ministries** | *Ministries build up the community of faith and transform lives and social conditions in the community and the world.* |
| **Fruitfulness** | *New disciples are being made, more disciples are participating in small groups for learning and faith formation, more disciples are engaging in worship and mission, and disciples are giving generously, particularly to mission.* |
| **Life-Full Stories** | *Stories are shared about changed lives, new disciples and transforming ministry.* |

***How do vital congregations grow?***

* Inspired and inviting worship
* Engaged disciples in mission and outreach
* Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership
* Equipped, effective, and inspired clergy leadership
* Faith-formed small group ministries, and
* Strong children and youth ministries.

***What type of disciple does GNJ seek to make?***

We seek disciples that will sit at the feet of Jesus and become life-long learners and followers of Jesus Christ, leaving behind safety and complacency to serve like Christ to save souls, end poverty, be graceful with those at the margins, connect with people who are different from us, and magnify God’s presence in the world. This type of discipleship is encouraged and supported through vital congregations.

***What type of leaders does GNJ seek to develop?***

We call leaders for their discipleship and leadership qualities. We equip them with skills.

* Leaders with a call for a *heart for Jesus* will develop for spiritual maturity
* Leaders with a call for *passion* will grow vital congregations
* Leaders with a call for *vision* will lead change and resolve conflict
* Leaders with a call for *diversity* will develop cultural competence (how to understand different cultures and community needs as well as how to interact, communicate and lead within multi-cultural contexts).
* Leaders with a call for *youth* will develop congregations for supporting younger leaders
* Leaders with a call for *creativity and innovation* will minister in particular contexts
* Leaders with a call for *perseverance* will develop fruitful ministry

Transformational Spiritual Leaders:

* Assess the spiritual depth, gifts and strategies needed to grow the congregation and serve the community,
* Cast a courageous vision,
* Assist the congregation to set and achieve challenging goals,
* Inspire and equip the congregation to make new disciples,
* Grow worship attendance,
* Grow disciples’ faith through small groups,
* Engage the congregation in life changing mission, and
* Increase giving to mission and ministry.

**GNJ Strategy**

Call, equip, send and support transformational leaders and resource congregations to assess their ministry and establish a path to vitality.

**2018 Objectives**

1. Increase the percentage of churches growing in worship attendance from 33% to 51%
2. Start 90 new faith communities
3. Decrease the number of worshipers it takes to make a new profession of faith from 17 to 15
4. Increase the percentage of worshipers in small groups from 43% to 75%
5. Increase the number of young adults in small groups from 2820 to 3200
6. Increase our racial ethnic worshipers from 20% to 25%
7. Increase the percentage of worshipers engaged in mission from 8% to 40%
8. Raise $12 million through a mission campaign

**Agency Ministry Alignment**

Agency ministry will align with the strategic plan and carry out the following responsibilities:

* Research new strategies and technologies
* Explore and recommend workshops to develop transformational leaders, grow vitality and engage the community
* Write blogs and provide information for the GNJ website and other communication platforms to inspire, resource and focus leaders and congregations
* Fulfill Disciplinary mandates related to the agency

**GNJ Decision Making Guidelines**

We will only invest our financial and human resources in decisions that:

1. Encourage innovative (creative and risk taking) ministry that connects with people in the community
2. Develop lay and clergy leadership for making disciples and transforming the world
3. Maximize vital congregations

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey will budget funds for agencies to support our strategic plan to equip transformational leaders and grow vital congregations. Continued funding will be dependent on achieving goals, implementation of programs, and timely reporting of results.

**GNJUMC  
2017 Agency Funding Application** – **Due December 15, 2015**

To input your information, click on the *dark gray* areas within the highlighted areas and begin typing. Please complete all gray highlighted areas. Responses must fit in the box and space provided. The term “agency” includes all committees, councils, boards and commissions.

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| Agency Name |  | | |
| Chair Name |  | **Chair Email** |  |
| Chair Phone |  | **$ Amt requested** |  |

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| **1. Please indicate the areas of the strategic plan the agency will support. Check all that apply** | |
| Equipping effective and inspired clergy leadership | Indicate area of development: |
| Equipping and empowering gifted lay leadership | Indicate area of development: |
| Growing vital congregations | Inspiring and inviting worship |
| Creating innovation in ministry | Making new disciples |
| Developing cultural competence | Starting or strengthening small group ministry |
| Expanding and/or strengthening diversity | Engaging disciples in mission and outreach |
| Leading change and/or resolving conflict | Starting or strengthening children and youth ministry |
| Assisting the conference to carry out the Book of Discipline | |

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| **2. How will the agency support GNJ strategic plan?** |
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| **3. How will the agency support and strengthen ministry in local churches?** |
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| 4. List Planned Activities, if known. | How does it best support Strategic Plan? (Choose from the list in page 3) | How will you measure success/fruits in connection to the strategic plan? |
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| **5. If you are partnering with another agency, how will you support each other’s work?** |
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| **6. How will you share your results and learning with local churches, peer agencies, and the conference?** |
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| 7. Use the space below to outline a budget for how you will allocate the requested funds. Include any additional sources of income that will support the work of the agency and the expense lines that will be associated with the programs. | |
| **INCOME** | |
| **Funding requested for the year 2017** |  |
| **Other expected income (please list)** |  |
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| **EXPENSES** | |
| **Please itemize each activity listed in question 4** | |
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| **Other Expenses (please itemize below)** |  |
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| **Total:** |  |

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| Please enter the funds you will be requesting for support for the agency in subsequent years, if known. | | |  |
|  |  | 2018 |  |
| 2019 | | |  |

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| Name of person submitting application: |  | Date: |  |

The application is designed to be submitted electronically. Only applications sent using the form electronically will be considered. Applications must be received by **December 15, 2015**.

Submit the application and address all questions to Ginny Kaiser at [GKaiser@gnjumc.org](mailto:GKaiser@gnjumc.org).