**The United Methodist Church**

of Greater New Jersey

Team Vital Seed Grant Application

Purpose of GNJ Grants

*What is our commitment?*

GNJ is committed to resource and support the development of congregations and lay and clergy leadership. Equipped and vital leaders and congregations are powerful witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the region.

*What is our purpose?*

To call, equip, send and support clergy and lay spiritual leaders to make and mature disciples, grow vital congregations and transform the world.

*What is a vital congregation?*

* *Vital congregations are Spirit-filled, forward-leaning communities of believers that invite and welcome all people* (Galatians 3:28).
* *Vital congregations make disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20).*
* *Vital congregations 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-Full Stories** | Stories are shared about changed lives, new disciples and transforming ministry |
| **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-Changing Ministries** | Ministries build up the community of faith and transform lives and social conditions in the community and the world |

*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.

*(Vital Congregation description* from GNJ Strategic Ministry Plan, page 5, approved May 2013*)*

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

* Disciples who will sit at the feet of Jesus and become life-long learners and followers of Jesus Christ,
* Disciples who leave behind safety and complacency to serve like Christ to save souls, and
* Disciples who strive to end poverty, be graceful to those at the margins, connect with people who are different from us, and magnify God’s presence in the world.

(*Discipleship description* from GNJ Strategic Ministry Plan, page 7, approved May 2013)

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

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

* 1. Leaders with a call for a heart for Jesus and will develop for spiritual maturity
  2. Leaders with a call for passion will grow vital congregations
  3. Leaders with a call for vision will lead change and resolve conflict
  4. 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)
  5. Leaders with a call for youth will develop congregations for supporting younger leaders
  6. Leaders with a call for creativity and innovation will minister in particular contexts
  7. Leaders with a call for perseverance will develop fruitful ministry

Turnaround 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.

(*Turnaround Spiritual Leaders* description from GNJ Strategic Ministry Plan, pages 4 & 10)

Submit the following application and address all questions to Diana Picurro at [DPicurro@gnjumc.org](mailto:DPicurro@gnjumc.org).

Team Vital Seed Grant Application

This grant will be allocated to those who have participated in Team Vital and completed a Team Vital Action Plan. (one (1) grant per church)

*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.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Church Name: |  | **Church number:** |  |
| Church Address: |  |
| Pastor: |  | Team Vital Leader: |  |
| Implementation Date: |  | Planned Evaluation Dates: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This grant will cover (please check appropriate box). Indicate grant amount requested for each ministry not to exceed a total of $1,500. | |
| Starting new/improving existing worship | $ |
| Starting new/improving existing small group | $ |
| Starting new/improving existing disciple making | $ |
| Starting new/improving existing mission program | $ |
| Starting new/improving existing giving program | $ |
| **Please include your completed Team Vital Action Plan with this grant application** | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of Submission: |  |
| Name of person submitting application: |  |
| DS Signature |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| By checking the box below, you confirm the following:DatesDetailsAmount | |
| This application was reviewed and approved by the **pastor and church council.** |
| We are enrolled in and committed to VitalSigns Dashboard. |

Grants will be allocated based on demonstrated willingness and preparedness to grow your congregation as reflected in the Action Plan submitted.

Submit the application and address all questions to Diana Picurro at [DPicurro@gnjumc.org](mailto:DPicurro@gnjumc.org).