

## **Black Caucus Innovation Fund**

The Black Caucus Innovation Fund recognizes the unique gifts and challenges of African American congregations. The fund is a grant program established to enable these congregations to explore innovative ideas that would revitalize their ministry and presence in the community. The fund is created from the monies received by Peaks Presbytery from churches dismissed to other denominations through the Gracious Dismissal Process.

The grants are targeted for use and benefit of the five African American Churches within Peaks Presbytery (Grace, Mizpah, Holbrook Street, Gethsemane, Fifth Avenue). Grants from this fund may include Christian Education, Congregational Leadership Development, Youth ministry and new projects and initiatives. The goal is to preserve and increase the longevity and presence of African American congregations within Peaks Presbytery.

### **Guidelines**

- Applications will be considered for projects endorsed by one or more of the African American congregations within Peaks Presbytery. The Black Caucus will be responsible for the review of grant requests.
- No more than one project per year will be funded from a particular congregation.
- Each Black Caucus Innovation Grant will be awarded for minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$5,000. Grants may be renewed for an additional two years, with a maximum of \$10,000 total support over the life of the grant.
- Black Caucus Innovation Grants are not intended to replace or supplement other forms of Peaks Presbytery support such as campus ministry, CEDEPCA, community outreach grants or Two Cents a Meal grants.
- Funds granted through the Black Caucus Innovation Fund program may not be used for capital improvements (building projects), debt retirement, or the securing of general on-going staff needs (including pastoral leadership).

### **Application Process**

- Applications will be considered quarterly by the Black Caucus (the Black Caucus to determine application deadlines).
- Disbursement will be made in one lump sum payment to the endorsing congregation, following approval of the application and submission of any requested supporting documentation.

### **Evaluation and Review**

- A written report confirming the funds were spent in accordance with the application and outlining learnings and next steps shall be submitted within three months of disbursement or conclusion of the project.
- The Black Caucus may require more frequent or additional reports at its discretion.
- Failure to submit requested reports will be considered in the application process for future grant requests to the Black Caucus and to Peaks Presbytery, including community outreach and hunger grants.

**Black Caucus Innovation Grant Application  
Presbytery of the Peaks**

**Project Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Congregation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of Project (attach a concise description of the project including the following):**

- Describe the purpose of the project
- Describe the significance of need
- Describe the goal of the project-what is hoped to be accomplished
- Describe the objectives of the project stated in measurable terms of how you can reach the goal
- Describe the activities that will be involved with the project
- Describe the projected outcome of the project-what will be achieved as a result of the project
- Provide an expected budget, including income from other sources and anticipated expenses
- Anticipated timeline for the project

Each grant application must be reviewed and approved by the session of the endorsing congregation. Please indicate the date the application was approved: \_\_\_\_\_.

All funds approved and disbursed must be used for the purposes described in this application unless otherwise approved by the Black Caucus of the Presbytery of the Peaks.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of contact person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of clerk of session

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Black Caucus Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

Submit completed application and supporting materials to the attention of the Black Caucus, Presbytery of the Peaks, PO Box 2519, Forest VA 24551. Applications may also be emailed to [office@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:office@peakspresbytery.org).