

CLERGY CARE GRANTS
Minnesota Conference UCC
FAQ Sheet

What is a “Clergy Care Grant”?

Clergy Care Grants are meant to support a congregation’s intentional effort to offer their pastor an extra dose of care and appreciation, acknowledging the unique stressors this pandemic season has placed on clergy leaders. If a congregation also has other authorized ministers who are members of their church, not part of their church staff but serving in other specialized ministries (e.g. chaplaincy, social justice ministry, higher education), a Clergy Care Grant may also support a gratitude gift of some kind to those authorized ministers. Clergy benefitting from this grant must be actively serving in a ministry setting and must be in good standing with the Minnesota Conference UCC.

Who can apply?

Elected lay leadership of congregations, such as Church Councils, are invited to complete an application on behalf of the congregation to benefit the pastor of your church or other actively serving authorized ministers who are members of your church. Your congregation’s governing group (e.g. church councils) must be aware of and supportive of the grant request.

What kinds of things could a Clergy Care Grant support?

We urge congregational lay leaders to have a conversation with your pastor(s) about what would be most helpful to them and contribute to their overall health. Don’t assume you know what your pastor needs most. Be creative! Some examples of how you might use this grant might be:

- Pulpit Supply Support: If your pastor would most benefit from some extra time away (above and beyond normal vacation leave allowed by their letter of call), this grant could be used in part to pay for pulpit supply in their absence if you don’t already have that money in your budget. (Note: a pulpit supply list is available from the Conference office. Contact Catherine Cejda at catherinec@uccmn.org or Tel. 612-871-0359 to request the list.)
- Travel or lodging expenses: Perhaps your pastor would love to get away for a few days to a retreat center or to visit family or friends. A grant could be utilized to support costs related to travel or lodging.
- Special gifts acknowledging the ministry of your pastor and/or other authorized ministers in your congregation.

How much money can we ask for?

Congregations with one paid pastor (full-time or part-time) may request up to \$500.

Congregations with more than one paid pastor on their church staff may request up to \$1000 total.

Congregations with one or more paid pastors who also intend to utilize the grant to provide some type of gift for actively serving authorized ministers (chaplains, etc) who are members of the congregation may request up to \$1000.

Your plans for utilizing the grant must be detailed on the application form.

How do we apply?

Fill out the attached grant application either electronically or by hand. If you fill it out electronically, you will need to save your results as a pdf and attach the document to an Email or by regular mail send the document to Conference Minister Reverend Shari Prestemon (sharip@uccmn.org), Minnesota Conference UCC, 122 W Franklin Avenue, Suite 323, Minneapolis, MN 55404). Applications will be accepted through May 2022.