

**“I AM ABOUT TO
DO A NEW THING
NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH,
DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?”**

**I WILL MAKE A WAY
IN THE WILDERNESS
AND RIVERS IN THE DESERT.”**

ISAIAH 43:19



IMAGINING RENEWAL

MICROGRANTS

The Year of Vision | 2022



SPIRIT OF THE GRANT

Make disciples who recognize the needs of their community and are encouraged to respond with creativity and a passion to serve.

Equip leaders with the resources to be imaginative in outreach.

Strengthen parishes through original projects that reach beyond our church buildings and address the needs of our community in this time.

Nurture new and adaptable ways for the people of Northwestern Ohio to be in community.

All applicants should imagine the needs of their community through these four lenses.



ELIGIBILITY

Any congregation, individual or community organization that is in relationship with a faith community in Northwestern Ohio is welcome to develop a proposal, in partnership with other individuals or ministries.

...for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio, and the world.

THE CALL

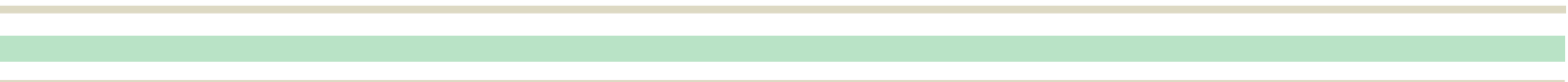
Being the church in our contexts provides a unique opportunity to use our creativity to share the Good News with our communities. As people of faith, we are called into mission, defined by hope and tenacity, to support our neighbor and be of service to each other. We are called by God to ministry that reaches beyond the walls of our Church buildings and better connects to the life of our communities. When we are tempted to turn inward, the Holy Spirit calls us out.

Holy innovation and dreams are unique components as people of faith ever committed to reformation and renewal in our spaces. In recognition of the Year of Vision, the Northwestern Ohio Synod is excited to provide the resources to support and equip innovative proposals for people of faith to generously work towards the renewal of Northwestern Ohio and the world.

THE PURPOSE

Imagining Renewal Microgrants are intended to offer support and resources to individuals, congregations, and organizations with the desire to engage in an original community-based project that uniquely meets a need of the community, encourages social engagement, and furthers the gospel.

These grants are designed to sustain current outreach ministries but encourage new and needed engagement with our communities. Funding may be used to assist a currently operating program to innovate and meet an identified need in a new and creative way that grows relationship with neighbors and encourages a life of active faith beyond the walls of church buildings.



CATEGORIES OF CARE

Outreach Re-imagined



Jesus provided food for the hungry and also advocated for a world in which everyone would always have their fill. What does it look like for us to reimagine outreach ministries through the lens of relationships and support that break cycles and renew our communities? These projects will be imagined in partnership with folks engaged by the ministry. Renewed ministry models will be oriented beyond collection and distribution, growing relationships, and providing opportunities for lasting change.

Neighbor Love



Our neighborhood is where we are called to care for God's people. In collaboration with neighbors who are not a part of the applying organization or congregation, projects will dream up a way to connect, resource, and celebrate the unique context of their neighborhood, and the people who live there. Proposals should be specifically designed to the great gifts and needs of the local community.

Youth + Young Adult Empowerment



Young people are an important part of our communities. Proposals will imagine providing space and encouragement for young people within a specific community and be developed in conjunction with the youth / parents / families who will be the focus of the project. Projects can support youth of any age, engaging with a local daycare, or even supporting college students or young adults in the community.

Awards up to \$2,000

SEEDING FUTURE GROWTH

Funding for these grants has been made possible through generous donors just like you. Together these gifts have made \$60,000 available for supporting innovative projects during this Spring 2022 round of Imagining Renewal Microgrants. We pray that this generosity will seed further generosity from those who value this ministry and have experienced its impact on their community.

Each awardee organization will be asked to prayerfully consider how in the future they may aspire to join in this generosity and give back to the Imagining Renewal Fund. Microgrant recipients are asked to aspire to give back at least 10% of the grant monies awarded in the year following the completion of their proposed project. This donation could be provided by donors within the awardee's community inspired by the impact of their project, through a fundraiser, or by funds that the awardees have available to designate. A concern over being able to donate back to the fund should not deter any individual or organization from proposing their project and does not have any bearing on eligibility.

Additionally, it is a high value of this initiative to imagine the ways each project can grow. We do not do this work alone. Each application is required to have two co-creative leaders engaged in the design and implementation of the proposed project. This may be a pastor and lay person, a staff member and client, a youth and an adult, a family and a teacher or any combination of ways that we walk through the world together in our communities. Coaches will ask about the specific dynamics of these teams, as healthy discipleship is collaborative and an important part of sustainable ministry.



COACHES

Proposals are reviewed and microgrants are awarded by a team of coaches that reflects a variety of experiences serving within our synod. Coaches engage in conversation with every applicant to help them continue to build on their ideas for outreach. These talented individuals ask questions to understand “what is” within the community and help dream about “what could be” as the applicant explores reaching beyond the walls of their buildings and walking with their neighbors in new ways. The role of the coach is to pose questions, challenge and encourage, working towards “yes”.



PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

Coaches will personally correspond with applicants, assisting them in creatively thinking through the practical implementation of their proposal. Coaches will collaboratively approve proposals as they are received and provide guidance as they see fit. If there is any question that a proposal does not meet the guidelines of the initiative or is impractical after further guidance, it will be discussed by the team of coaches.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRANT RECIPIENTS



Ensure imagined proposal meets the guidelines outlined above. Submit proposal via electronic application available at <https://nwos-elca.church/renewal/> or call (419) 260-3645 for non-digital accommodations.



Engage with your coach! Respond to requests for additional information regarding your application. Coaches serve as guides through the process and are helpful in dreaming about how a specific proposal could be carried out.



Attend a celebrator picnic on the evening of May 26th where applicants will share their dreams and microgrant checks will be awarded.



Initiate the outreach project, being sure to begin within two weeks of receiving the funds. If a particular circumstance makes this difficult, an inquiry should be submitted to your coach in advance. Funds must be used by December 31, 2022. Document and share the process of your project with your network as you go, posting pictures and updates while continuing to use the hashtag #NWOSrenewal on social media.



Upon completion of your project, submit a report recapping the project and its impact. Guidelines for this short reporting process will be sent when grants are awarded. Photos and videos with permission for publication by the Synod are encouraged. For projects that continue beyond 2022, a one-year impact follow-up will be helpful. Celebrate with your community and lift up the impact through your communication efforts!



Unused funds must be returned to the Renewal Fund to be used for future microgrants.



Each awardee will be asked to prayerfully consider how in the future they will be able to join in the Cooperative Funding Structure and give back to the grant fund being created by aspiring to donate at least 10% of the grant monies awarded in the year following the completion of the proposed project.

TIMELINE



Applications will be eagerly accepted on a rolling basis, opening April 1st and closing May 18th.



Applicants will be contacted by a coach shortly after their application is received. Coaching conversations will support the further development of the proposed project.



Applicants will attend an evening of celebration on Thursday, May 26th to pitch their projects and receive their awards.



Projects must be initiated no later than two weeks after receiving grant funding.



Funding should be spent by December 31, 2022 unless special circumstances are approved. Unused funds should be returned to the synod upon project completion.



Leaders of grant-funded projects are required to follow up with project summary and storytelling review within two weeks of project completion.



Any projects that extend beyond the short-term proposal will receive a call one year later for continued storytelling and celebration.



Within one year of project completion, grant recipients are encouraged to prayerfully consider a gift of at least 10% of their original award, to grow the Renewal Fund.

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FUNDING MISSIONAL
INNOVATION

IN OUR PARISHES

FOR THE RENEWAL OF
NORTHWESTERN OHIO

AND THE WORLD

CONTACT

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