



NEW START NEW FAITH COMMUNITY GRANT

The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation partners with churches and emerging faith communities to support innovative ministry, encourage faithful stewardship, nurture generous discipleship, and strengthen sustainable efforts to reach new people and grow the church.

A new or consecutive grant request must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a United Methodist New Start New Faith Community in the State of Nebraska.
- Must have been approved by the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church as a New Start New Faith Community.
- Must include a worship service and community care.
- Must have the potential for self-sustainability in terms of growth and finances.

The grant program is available twice each year:

Spring Application Period

January 1st – March 31st

Grants reviewed by **April 30th**; decision letters mailed by **May 15th**

Fall Application Period

July 1st – September 30th

Grants reviewed by **October 31st**; decision letters mailed by **November 15th**

We will only accept one application per church each calendar year. All applications need to be filled out completely with all appropriate signatures for the application to be considered. Missing information or signatures will result in the application being denied.

It is important to note that the amount of New Start New Faith Endowment Funds available from the Foundation are limited and are not intended to provide the total amount of funds required to fully support new congregations.

Grants may be renewable for up to **three consecutive years** contingent upon the availability of funding sources and the quality and scope of the project.

The Stewardship Committee, composed of members of the Foundation's Board of Directors, will review all applications at the April and October Board meetings. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors, who will then make the final decision to approve or deny each application.

Award recipients are encouraged to schedule at least one stewardship or ministry-focused engagement with the Foundation's Director of Stewardship during each award year. Opportunities may include sermon messages, fellowship discussions, church sustainability conversations, planned giving presentations, finance and trustee committee education, or other topics tailored to the needs of the congregation.

Applications are available at www.numf.org and should be mailed to Sharon Schmidt, Director of Stewardship, Nebraska United Methodist Foundation, 100 W. Fletcher Ave., Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68521, or emailed to sschmidt@numf.org.



New Start New Faith Community Grant Application

Name of Church Applying for Grant: _____

Name of Person Completing This Form: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

District: _____ Amount Requested: _____

Conference approval received by: _____ Date: _____

You must have approval at the Conference level to be considered.

Reasons for establishing this New Start New Faith Community:

Physical location of the New Start New Faith Community:

Launch date: _____

Scheduled Worship Services per week: _____

Average Weekly In-Person Worship Attendance: _____

Do you offer Virtual Worship: _____

If yes, what is the Average Virtual Weekly Attendance: _____

Current Church Membership: _____

Does your church currently have active small groups or other ongoing opportunities for Christian fellowship and discipleship: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide the following information for each active small group or ministry group:

Name of the group or ministry, frequency and schedule of meetings, average number of participants, and purpose, goals, and primary activities of the group.

Please use a separate sheet to provide a brief narrative on goals from your ministry plan according to the questions below:

1. Are you achieving your goals according to your ministry plan?
2. What is working well?
3. What is not going according to your plan? How did you adjust?
4. What are your goals for the upcoming year? Please be specific.

Please list all grant funds applied for and received to support this New Start New Faith Community:

What percentage of your budget would this grant provide for the year you are applying: _____ %

How will this grant be used (approximate use) if received: _____

If this is a new launch: Provide a timeline for the first 18 months and include benchmarks.

If this is not a new launch: Provide a timeline for the next 12 months and summary of benchmarks met in the past 12 months:

Required benchmarks include:

- One-on-one community contacts.
- Strategic events to connect with target group.
- Number of people participating in events related to your ministry.
- Monthly financial support.

Please also attach the following information to this application:

- Ministry plan.
- Current budget.
- A projected cash flow sheet for the first two years of operation.
- Church sustainability plan.
- If this is a renewal application, provide a summary of how the previous year's grant dollars were used. Please be as specific as possible.

Other comments you would like to share that may prove useful in the Committee's evaluation process:

Have you received a New Start New Faith Community grant from the Foundation in the last five years: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please answer the following questions:

What was the total amount you received: \$ _____

How was the grant used? Please include details of the use of those funds (*attach additional pages, if necessary. Photos and stories are appreciated*).

Signature of Person Completing Form
(Required)

Date

Signature of District Superintendent
(Required)

Date

Signature of Coordinator of Congregational Development
(Required)

Date

For more information or questions regarding this grant application, please contact, Sharon Schmidt at 402-323-8841 or sschmidt@numf.org