

Gathering Church Mustard Seed Grants

He continued, "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade." Mark 4:30-32 CEB

Purpose:

The Gathering Church Mustard Seed Grants Program is designed to strengthen and sustain projects that help to further embody the Gathering Church vision both locally and internationally. It is our hope that affirming the initiative of these ideas will share the joy, love, blessing, and renewal that our community experiences with those not connected to our congregation.

Made possible through the generous giving of the congregation, these grants are intended to stimulate thoughtful and enthusiastic service that will result in our increased capacity to engage the world around us.

Eligibility:

Any group, family, or individual affiliated with the Gathering Church, including children under eighteen with the co-application of an adult eighteen or older.

Grants can be awarded to existing nonprofit organizations, if directed to a specific project or intention.

Amount and Timeline of Grant Cycles:

Grants awarded will range up to \$2,000. Two application/award cycles will occur each year, with the exception of three cycles in 2013. Anywhere from two to eight grants will be awarded each cycle.

Cycle 1: Completed

Cycle 2: Applications Open 4/7/13 - 5/5/13; Awards Announced 5/19/13

Cycle 3: October/November 2013

Selection Considerations:

Projects selected will articulate creative alignment with Gathering Church vision statements, found below:

We are becoming a church that...

...finds joy in God and one another

We want to become more and more aware of God's presence among us and to help others awaken to the God who knows and loves us all. Instead of busy-ness, distraction, and disconnection, we want God to show us how to be present and attentive to him and to each other.

...sees and loves others the way Jesus did and does

We want to have Jesus's vision for the world. Generally, we don't see or love like Jesus does. We see a broken status quo; Jesus sees potential for real renewal. We mostly look for people who can serve us; Jesus looks for those he can love and serve, those for whom he even gave his very life.

...celebrates the breadth of our gifts and creativity to glorify God and bless others

We want to have a vivid imagination for how God can and will use each of us to contribute with our loves, histories, talents, and interests to the Kingdom of God in our place and time. Everyone has something to add, gifts from God, that can be transformed and grown.

...participates in God's renewal of all things

We want to be a part of the flourishing available for the people, places, and things around us. As Resurrection People, we want to be actively involved in the Holy Spirit's work of breathing new life into God's world.

Application Process:

As you and your collaborators brainstorm, we encourage you to reflect on both the activities and actions your idea will involve, on the results and habits it may bring about, and on the impact and transformation that God may catalyze through your grant.

It is our hope that the grant proposal process is enriching as you articulate your vision and specify your plan for implementing it. We trust that the collaborative experience of answering the following questions will be instructive and encouraging to you, whether or not your proposal is funded in this cycle.

Please complete the following:

1. Summarize your project in **1-3 concise sentences**. Include what you hope to do and why you will do it. For example, "Because we see _____, we want to implement a project that _____, in order to _____.
2. Indicate, **in 1-2 statements each**, how your idea connects with each statement of the Gathering Church vision to be becoming a church that...
 - a) finds joy in God and one another
 - b) sees and loves others the way Jesus did and does
 - c) celebrates the breadth of our gifts and creativity to glorify God and bless others
 - d) participates in God's renewal of all things
3. Provide **1-2 brief paragraphs** that expand on the needs or opportunities that this project will address and the impact you hope to see as a result of this project.
4. Anticipate a budget for your project, providing a total amount requested and listing, with brief description, each projected expense.

Submission:

Please submit your responses, along with contact information requested below, to mustardseeds@allgather.org.

Lead Applicant Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Mailing Address

[If Applicable] Additional Collaborators / Adult Co-Applicant

You will receive an email confirming receipt of your application and indicating next steps.

We are thankful for your involvement.

