

The Gathering Church Mustard Seed Grants

Thank you for your interest in applying for a Mustard Seed Grant! We have sought to make the application as simple as possible. The application on page 3 of this document entails three primary sections: project summary, alignment with our church vision statement, and congruence with grant objectives. The following information will assist in your grant writing process!

Mustard Seed Grant's Scriptural Foundation:

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: Mustard Seed Grants are designed to kick start or sustain community projects that embody the Gathering's vision. 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 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 and applied for by a person/group from the Gathering who maintains a relationship with the organization.

Timeline of Grant Cycles: Grants are awarded throughout the year (2-4, annually) for up to \$2,000.00, when the missions team convenes to review applications. The team may convene at other times as well, if the proposal is time sensitive. Funds available are contingent upon church giving and the annual missions budget.

Selection Criteria: Projects selected will articulate creative alignment with Gathering Church vision statements (found below) and Mustard Seed objectives (found further below).

Gathering Church Vision Statement:

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 busyness, 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.

Grant Objectives:

- (a) allow for broad congregational involvement,
- (b) innovative or creative investment in, and engage with the church's community, and/or
- (c) display the potential to grow, evolve, and be fruitful beyond the initial kick-start

APPLICATION PROCESS: As you and your collaborators apply for a **Mustard Seed Grant**, we hope you will reflect on the activities and actions your idea will involve, on the results and habits your project may bring about, and on the impact and transformation that God may catalyze through your grant. We hope the grant proposal process is enriching and clarifying as you articulate your vision and specify your plan for implementing it.

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 a brief statement, how your idea connects with at least *one* of the Gathering Church **Vision Statements** (see full vision statements above)

- a) find joy in God and one another
- b) see and love others the way Jesus did and does
- c) celebrate the breadth of our gifts and creativity to glorify God and bless others
- d) participate in God’s renewal of all things

3. Indicate how, or *if*, your proposal satisfies each of the **Grant Objectives** below. Alignment with all three objectives is not required, though funding preference will be given to proposals that meet at least one and preferably 2-3 objectives.

- a) allows for broad congregational involvement,
- b) innovatively invests in or engages the church’s community (the more local, the better—but don’t let that dissuade your international ideas), and/or
- c) displays the potential to grow, evolve, and be fruitful beyond the initial project

4. Anticipate a budget for your project, providing a total amount requested. List with a brief description, each projected expense.

5. Optionally, include anything else you think is important for the team to know. Include any applicable links, photos, etc.

Submission: Please submit your responses, along with contact information 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 explanation of next steps. We are thankful for your interest, ideas and engagement!

