

Request for Proposals

OSU MINISTRY INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Creative Ministries for College Students, Millennials, and/or “Spiritual but not religious”

OVERVIEW

The Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Innovation Lab are seeking grant proposals from UCC Churches in the Central Southeast Ohio Association. These grants will be used to form creative and innovative ministries to college students, millennials and/or “spiritual but not religious” people.

Through this grant program, the Ohio Conference UCC and the Innovation Lab are interested in learning about:

- What creative and innovative ministries appeal to college students, millennials and/or “spiritual but not religious” people,
- How progressive Christian values do/do not resonate with these individuals,
- How is spirituality is experienced around campus communities,
- What practices churches/organizations/individuals need to engage to be more creative and innovative in ministry to these communities.

The purpose and type of ministry that will be funded has been left broad by design. Participants are encouraged to begin with real needs of the community they wish to serve and design creative ways to address those needs. Proposals that simply duplicate a ministry being done in another place will not receive funds. This is about trying new things, doing new experiments and pushing ourselves beyond our comfort zone. We seek to learn and discover possible paths forward in progressive campus ministry.

We are asking local churches, UCC Authorized Ministers or other related UCC ministries to apply for grants from \$500 to \$2,500 by August 31, 2017. Recipients may use the OSU Ministry Incubator space to host their program that is located in the heart of the OSU campus, but is not required.

Recipients of the grants will be asked to produce a short report describing the ministry they conducted with the grant and the insights/learnings they discovered. They will also be asked to participate in a one-hour teleconference call with other grant recipients to discuss their work.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1) Submit a preliminary description of your project for feedback by June 1, 2017. (optional)
- 2) Complete Application Form including a brief budget by June 30, 2017.
- 3) Agree to the principles and practices outlined in the Ohio Conference UCC's "Open and Affirming" statement.

DECISION PROCESS

Decisions will be made on or about July 7 by the Director of the Innovation Lab, a representative of the Ohio Conference Board of Directors, and a representative of the Central Southeast Ohio Association Board of Directors. Applications will be evaluated on creativity/innovation, relevance to target audience, the likelihood of the ministry being reproduced in other settings, use of, and oversight of funds.

If the full amount of funds are not distributed, a second round of proposals will be received from a wider array of UCC Churches and partner denominations.

QUESTIONS

Please direct your questions or your preliminary proposals to Phil Hart, Innovation Lab Director by emailing : rphilphart@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

We utilize the Human Centered Design approach. More information is below.

The Human-Centered Design Mindsets <http://www.designkit.org/mindsets> include:

Creative Confidence [Link to Video <http://www.designkit.org/mindsets/3>

Make It [Link to Video <http://www.designkit.org/mindsets/2>]

Learn from Failure [Link to Video <http://www.designkit.org/mindsets/1>]

Empathy [Link to Video <http://www.designkit.org/mindsets/4>]

Embrace Ambiguity [Link to Video <http://www.designkit.org/mindsets/4>]

Optimism [Link to video <http://www.designkit.org/mindsets/6>]

Iterate, Iterate, Iterate [Link to video <http://www.designkit.org/mindsets/7>]

Download the FREE Human-Centered Design Kit <http://www.designkit.org/resources/1>

Embed Shopping Cart Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taJOV-YCiel>

Research about Millennials, Spiritual but Not Religious

"Nones on the Rise." Pew Research Center. 2012 <http://www.pewforum.org/2012/10/09/nones-on-the-rise-religion/>

"Religious Landscape Study." Pew Research Center. 2015. <http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/>

"How We Gather" by [Angie Thurston](#) and [Casper ter Kuile](#) <http://howwegather.org>

OSU MINISTRIES INCUBATOR

GRANT Request

APPLICATION

Please fill in the following online application or submit the following information in a Word or PDF document:

1. Name of UCC Church, Authorized Minister or related ministry applying for the grant.
2. Name of your OSU Incubator Ministry Project
3. Contact Person (name and contact information)
4. Briefly describe the intended audience of your ministry. (Be as specific as possible.)
5. Tell us what you have learned about the people in this audience from your experience and any preliminary research.
6. What are some the gifts/skills/passions that you and/or your congregation/organization bring to this project.
7. Describe what you will do during the course of this ministry project.
8. What time frame do you expect your time to happen? (Projects must be complete by March 31, 2018.)
9. How much money are you requesting? (Between \$500 and \$2,500 will be granted.)
10. How will the funds be used to support this ministry? (Please include line items for how the funds will be spent.)
11. Include any other information that would support your grant application.
12. (Do you affirm that Ohio Conference UCC Open and Affirming Statement? Yes No)