

## **Matching Funds for Mission – A Congregational Resource of the NWOS - ELCA**

### **1. Background.**

For the past several years, the NWOS has endeavored to promote a sense of mission and outreach in and among its member congregations. “Every congregation a mission site, every pastor a mission developer” has been an oft repeated, generally well received refrain.

But, as with so many other things in life, mission and outreach on the congregational level turns out to be easier said than done! We, in this synod, are certainly in agreement that our member congregations are called to take the Good News of God in Christ Jesus beyond the four walls of our buildings, but in truth there are many obstacles; sometimes we may not have much experience creating outreach ministries, and/or we may not know how to get started.

And then there’s money. New ministries can be expensive, we see the “payback” might be years in coming and in tough economic times, the sad fact is we simply may not believe we can afford to even try.

But now, thanks to a generous bequest to the NWOS and a decision reached at the May 2011 Synod Assembly, there is some financial support for congregational new mission initiatives:

- \$20,000 has been designated by the Synod Assembly for beginning a Matching Funds program.\*

Congregations are encouraged to dream, to brainstorm, to plan a new way of bringing Christ to neighbors and friends in local communities and then to apply to the synod for matching funds, as a way of making the dream a reality.

\*Note: This Matching Funds program is, at present, approved only for the calendar year 2011 – 2012. Future funding, if approved by the synod assembly, may come from other sources and/or the Synod’s Annual Appeal.

## 2. General Criteria

The Matching Funds Program is open to all congregations of the NWOS.

The money is intended for new ministries, or for expanding current ministries in a new way, and must be focused on evangelical and/or servant outreach into your community or ministry context. These dollars will not be approved for updating Information/Technology equipment, repairing an organ, or for anything in your current budget! This is a “matching funds” program with the intention of supporting projects where progress is shown in establishing continued funding at a local level.

These funds are available for many ideas you might have—youth events, soup kitchens, living nativities, etc. And you are encouraged to sit down with a small group to pray, think, and drink strong coffee—let your imagination roam, and see what God might inspire you to do missionally in your neighborhood or larger community! Synod staff and others on synod council are happy to sit down and brainstorm with you, if that would be helpful; but YOU are the expert in your own community, and “the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid” as it says in 2 Timothy 1. God has given what you need; you have what it takes to be Christ’s presence wherever you are.

Presently, since this program is new, there are few pre-set guidelines; however, we do ask that you **limit requests to \$1,000**. The Grants Sub-committee will support as many congregations as possible, and will limit individual grants only in relation to the number and size of grant requests that are received. Likewise, future funding is dependent upon many factors, thus there is not promise of subsequent funding, but it is the intention of synod council to continue this effort as long as it makes sense to do so.

The screening and review of grant applications will be handled by a sub-committee of Synod Council, made up of at least one representative from each of NWOS conferences.

## 3. Grant Submission Details

The application process is open from **October 1, 2011 through 5:00 pm January 31, 2012** (postage date or received by email). The NWOS Matching Funds Grant Application Form (attached below and available on the synod website) must be completed and sent in, preferably in PDF format via email, by January 31, 2012.

Most grants awards will be made in February and March of 2012 to be utilized the rest of the year; and will dispersed relative to the number and size of grant applications received.

An Annual Report will be required and is to be submitted by December 31, 2012. This summary of the funded project includes: project update or completion details, description of the original vision and an evaluation of the project’s success – ie., cataloguing strengths and weaknesses and lessons learned; and offering tips and pointers to others who may want to try a similar project. Project summaries, with PHOTOS (if possible), will be shared throughout the synod, in an effort to share our ministry stories and encourage other congregations to develop projects as well!

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

**NWOS Matching Funds  
Grant Application Form**

Congregation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Total project cost (budget): \_\_\_\_\_

Source(s) of Matching Funds: \_\_\_\_\_

Key Staff Person(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your congregation, and the community in which God has placed you:

What is the vision/mission of your project?

What do you hope to accomplish?

How do you propose to get there? ie., What are the activities of the project?

What is the commitment of your congregation for this project? Time, Talent, Treasure:

What are funding needs and options for the future?

List other groups or agencies in your community, or other congregations in your area, who may support this ministry.

Evaluation: How will success be measured?

What are you looking for, how do you know if you got there, and who will make that call?

**Complete application may be sent via email to [sherry.krieger@nwos-elca.org](mailto:sherry.krieger@nwos-elca.org) or sent to the synod office at 621 Bright Road, Findlay, OH 45840 ATTN: Synod Council Grants Committee, Application due no later than 5pm on January 31, 2012**

Date of Report: \_\_\_\_\_

**NWOS Matching Grants Follow up Questionnaire**

*(Please submit at end of project or end of year for on-going projects)*

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person completing Report: \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize your original expected outcomes for this project and how you had planned to achieve them

What have been the principal accomplishments of the project to date? How have they been achieved?

How have the grants funds been used?

We recognize that circumstances change, affecting ministry in many ways. What if any difficulties have you encountered? Why did they occur? What changes and refinements were necessary to overcome them?

What do you know now you wish you'd known then?

What have been the most surprising outcomes of this ministry?

What words of wisdom would you like to share with other congregations who may want to pursue this ministry, or something similar?

What's next for you in this ministry?