



YEAR 2024

**NEW START/NEW FAITH COMMUNITY
GRANT EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FORM
AND CONSECUTIVE GRANT APPLICATION**

Please Send Completed Form To:
Kristine Roberts, Executive Director
Nebraska United Methodist Foundation
100 W. Fletcher Avenue, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 402-323-8842, Fax: 402-323-8840
kroberts@numf.org

Fall Grant Deadline is September 30, 2024

NEW START/NEW FAITH COMMUNITY GRANT SEMI-ANNUAL PROCESS

It is the mission of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation (“Foundation”) to be a catalyst that strengthens our Nebraska ministries and supports and develops innovative ministries meeting the needs of a diverse and rapidly changing society.

Grant applicants should be aware that priority will be given to the following:

- A *New Start* deemed to be of an outreach and beneficial nature to the larger community.
- A *New Start* that is in collaboration with other United Methodist entities.
- A *New Start* that has identified other sources of revenue.
- A *New Start* that is an integral part of a long-range plan for growth and outreach.

Grants will be awarded on a semi-annual basis. The Spring New Start/New Faith Community grant program runs January 1st – March 31st, and Fall grant program runs July 1st – September 30th. Grant applications must be received by the respective program deadline.

Grants approved by the Foundation’s Stewardship Committee are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right to reject in whole or in part any grant application that it deems to be incomplete or not in accordance with the mission and policies set forth by the Foundation. The decision of the Board of Directors of the Foundation regarding all awards shall be final.

Grants may be renewable up to three consecutive years contingent upon the availability of funding sources and the quality and scope of the project. It is not guaranteed that grants will be awarded the full amount of the request. Grants will be conditional upon requirements being met and documented to the Foundation’s satisfaction. All grants awarded shall require no less than annual reporting to the Foundation as to the progress of the project, how the funds were used within the progress and the financial activity resulting from the grant in the event that the grant is awarded and will be applied for again the following year. **If a new application with a progress and financial activity report is not received, the ministry will not be considered for future grants.**

Purpose of This Grant

The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation offers grant funds to support the development of new start/new faith communities in the State of Nebraska. These funds were created years ago for the **express purpose** of providing **start-up** grants for developing Nebraska United Methodist Churches during their **first three years of operation**. It's important to note that the amount of Congregational Development Endowment Funds available from the Foundation are limited and were never intended to provide the total amount of funds required to fully support new congregations.

Criteria

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

- Must be a 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 and the individual who has been appointed or assigned to develop this church plant must have been through an assessment and training process.
- Every New Start/New Faith Community that received a grant in the previous year is required to submit a new application each subsequent year, complete with all information requested, including a summary of how the grant was used from the previous year.
- All applications need to be filled out completely with all appropriate signatures in order for the application to be considered. Missing information or signatures will result in the application being denied.
- **The application must be postmarked by either March 31st of the current year for the Spring grant program or September 30th of the current year for the Fall grant program.**
Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Process

Applications should be sent to Kristine Roberts, Executive Director, Nebraska United Methodist Foundation, 100 W. Fletcher Ave., Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68521.

Review of Application

The Stewardship Committee made up of members of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation's Board of Directors, will review all applications at the April & October board meetings. Upon recommendations of the Stewardship Committee, these recommendations will be brought before the Board of Directors for approval or denial.



New Start/New Faith Grant Application

Name of Church/Congregation Applying For Grant: _____

Name of Person Completing This Form: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

District: _____ Amount of Request: _____

Have you consulted with your DS, and if so, have you received approval at the Conference level to move forward? Yes No

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

What are (or were) your reasons for planting this “New Start/New Faith Community”?

What is the physical location of the “New Start/New Faith Community”?

What is or was your launch date? _____

Average attendance at Sunday worship: _____

If you have other worship times besides Sunday, please fill in when and how many attend:

Please provide the number of new members that joined the first year and every year since (please include date range per membership, example Jan. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020 = x number of members). If you are a new launch, please provide details on current and expected membership.

Please provide the number of new baptisms the first year and every year since (please include date range per baptisms, example Jan. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020 = x number of baptisms). If you are a new launch, please provide as current of data as possible.

How many small groups are currently active? _____

Do you have a church school? Yes No

What kind of stewardship and tithing education is being presented to the congregation?

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

1. Have you been achieving or achieved your goals according to your ministry plan?
2. What worked or is working well?
3. What did not go or 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 current financial commitments you will be receiving or have received organizing this New Start/New Faith Community. (Note: pledges are a valid form of financial commitment)

What percentage of your budget would this grant provide for the year in which you are applying?

_____ %

Does the pastor/staff plan on further education in congregational development? If so, please provide more details.

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 a brief summary of benchmarks met in the past 12 months:

Required benchmarks include:

- One-on-one community contacts.
- Strategic events to connect with target group.
- Adults added to contact list.
- Adults committed as Core/Launch team members.
- Number of people participating in events related to your ministry.
- Monthly financial support.
- Any additional benchmarks related to living out your core values.

Please also attach the following information to this application:

- A projected cash flow sheet for the first two years of operation.** (If this is a renewal application, then a projected cash flow for the next two years of operations.)
- The demographic information that supports this location.**
- If this is a renewal application, provide a brief 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 within the last five years? Yes No If yes, please answer the following questions:

What was the total amount you received? _____

Was the entire grant used? Yes No

When was the grant used? _____

How was the grant used? Please include details of the use of those funds (*attach additional pages, if necessary. Photos and stories are appreciated*). ****The Foundation continues to honor donor intent and values the results of our New Start/New Faith Community Grant program. Lack of communication on the results of prior years’ projects could impact future grant requests.**

Signature of Person Completing Form

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, Kristine Roberts at 402-323-8842 or kroberts@numf.org