

FCM Endowment Fund

Grant Policy

2025

We respond to the sacred Call by empowering and nurturing those inspired for expansive ministries in the world.



FCM

Circle of Directors

Document Revision History

Version	Date	Description
2025.1	July 10, 2025	Initial version
2025.2	July 11, 2025	Revised and adopted version, Current

Purpose of the Policy

This policy establishes the criteria and procedures for evaluating and selecting individuals or organizations to receive grants from the FCM Endowment Fund, as delegated to the FCM Endowment Fund Committee by the Circle of Directors. The goal is to ensure responsible, ethical, and mission-aligned use of endowment resources for the support and advancement of ministries, initiatives, and projects that reflect the values of FCM.

For the purposes of this policy, the term “grant” is used to describe both grants and scholarships as appropriate.

Guiding Principles

Grant decisions shall be guided by the following principles:

- **Mission Alignment**
Grants must support projects that align with FCM's mission to be a faith-based, inclusive, and justice-seeking community of ministers and ministries.
- **Stewardship**
All decisions must reflect prudent financial stewardship of the funds identified for grants.
- **Equity and Inclusion**
The Committee shall prioritize grants that uplift marginalized voices and communities.
- **Transparency and Accountability**
The Committee shall maintain clear, fair processes for all applicants and report outcomes to the Circle of Directors.
- **Grant Size**
The Committee shall only award grants that do not exceed \$10,000.00 per fiscal year. Should the Committee wish to provide awarded funds in excess of this amount, approval must be provided by the Circle of Directors.

Eligibility Criteria

Grants may be awarded to:

- Individuals affiliated with FCM (e.g., Commissioned or Endorsed Members) engaged in ministries, social justice efforts, chaplaincy, or theological/ministerial education.
- Faith communities or nonprofit organizations whose work supports the spiritual, pastoral, or justice-focused mission of FCM.

- Emerging or innovative projects that seek to expand the reach and impact of inclusive ministry.

All applicants must:

- Demonstrate financial and operational accountability.
- Present a clear plan for the use of funds, including timeline and intended outcomes.
- Provide references or endorsements when applicable.

Application Process

Announcement

The Committee will publish an annual or semi-annual call for proposals, including deadlines, funding limits, and criteria.

Submission Requirements

- Completed application form
- Project or ministry description
- Budget and funding request
- Timeline and measurable outcomes
- Resume or organizational profile
- Letter of support (if applicable)
- Applications must be submitted by the deadline for consideration in the current cycle.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be scored based on:

- Alignment with FCM mission and values
- Impact on the community or population served
- Feasibility and clarity of the project plan
- Applicant's capacity to implement the project
- Sustainability of the project (where applicable)

- Innovation and responsiveness to current needs

The Committee shall seek the consult of members who hold relevant experience and expertise in the area of the applicants ministry (if the experience is not held within the existing membership of the Committee), to ensure appropriate use of the intended funds. Record of the consultation shall be included in the summary provided to the Circle.

Each application will be independently reviewed and scored by members of the Committee before a final deliberation meeting.

Selection Process

- A quorum of the Endowment Fund Committee must be present for decisions.
- Decisions require a simple majority vote.
- Conflict of interest must be disclosed and any Committee member with a conflict must recuse themselves from voting.
- Selected recipients will be notified in writing and must sign a grant agreement prior to disbursement of funds.
- The Committee shall not award a grant to the same applicant more than two (2) times in a three (3) year rolling cycle, unless an exception is granted by the Circle of Directors.

Oversight and Reporting

The Endowment Fund Committee shall:

- Provide a summary of awarded grants to the Circle of Directors annually.
- Submit a financial report detailing disbursed funds and remaining balances (if applicable).
- Periodically review and provide suggested revisions of this policy to the Circle of Directors to ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness.