

WINDHAM ASSOCIATION
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mustard Seed Grant

For Excellence in the Proclamation of the Christian Faith

(adopted 5/20/01)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of all shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” Matthew 13:31-32

INVITATION TO APPLY

The Windham Association invites individuals, congregations, entities within congregations, or cooperative groups crossing congregational lines to submit proposals for a \$1,000 grant to initiate and carry out a ministry that demonstrates the Christian faith. One grant will be awarded annually.

INTENT

The grant intends to provide one-time only funding for new ministries that grow, develop, and stimulate others to share in that ministry, branching off on their own. The grant is dynamically oriented, lifting the parable of the mustard seed from the written word to an active ministry.

This is a seed grant, awarded with the expectation that the congregation or organization will provide expansion, and/or continued funding.

The grant will be awarded in the spring by the Windham Association. The project or program must be initiated by October 1st of that year. The recipient is required to present a report to the Association Council the following spring. In doing so, it is hoped that information concerning significant ministries, not otherwise known, will be disseminated across the Association and Conference.

CRITERIA

A 3-5 person committee, nominated and elected by the Association will judge the proposals based on:

1. Demonstrated faith base
2. Need for such a ministry
3. Compliance with the Association’s intent of the grant
4. Feasibility in terms of the ability and resources to bring the project or program to fruition
5. Assurance of congregational commitment.

FORMAT

The proposal should address the following:

1. Need
Why this ministry?

2. Purpose, Goals
What is to be accomplished?
3. Project growth and development
Demonstrate immediate as well as broadening across time, and place; providing seed for other ministries
4. The ministry's relation to the Christian faith
5. To whom or what is the ministry addressed?
6. Procedures
What is to be done? How will the program or project be carried out? Who will conduct or facilitate the ministry?
7. Assurance that the applicant's congregation or organization is cooperative and supportive, i.e. additional funding, involvement and in-kind support

TO APPLY

Proposals should be 3-7 double-spaced typed pages, submitted in triplicate no later than April 15 to:
Susan Waldron, 17 Maple Lane, Thompson, CT 06277

The current Mustard Seed Committee includes:

Rev. Oscar Brockmeyer, First Congregational Church of Canterbury
Mr. Steve Stellitano, Federated Church of Christ, Brooklyn
Ms. Susan Waldron, First Congregational Church of Woodstock