

Middle Governing Body Grant Program Samples

SAMPLE 1

Program

Title: Conflict Resolution in the Congregation

Contact

Information: The Rev. Jeanne Radak
Associate Executive for Congregational Ministry
Presbytery of Philadelphia
2200 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Program

Description: Conflict Resolution in the Congregation, led by a nationally recognized leader in conflict management, is a program for pastors to learn about conflict and conflict resolution, both personal and institutional. From this training, pastors will develop skills that will guide them to creative approaches to conflict resolution/management in the congregation and that will lead to opportunities for transformation and spiritual growth. The program will also include training to help pastors to become conflict resolution coaches for other pastors. The initial training will be 3 1/2 days to 4 1/2 days, followed six months later with a 1 1/2 day follow-up event, and concluding a year later with an additional follow-up/refresher event. The program is sponsored by four presbyteries in the southeast Pennsylvania area and the Synod of the Trinity.

SAMPLE 2

Program

Title: Practical Leadership Skills for Pastors

Contact

Information: Wm. Samford Turner
Presbytery of South Alabama
P.O. Drawer 2157
Daphne, AL 36526

Program

Description: The extremes of the past two years have created unique challenges for pastors serving churches in hurricane affected regions of the Gulf Coast and other areas where disasters have occurred. For some, the challenge has meant picking up the pieces of their lives, property, and livelihoods. For others, it has meant helping sister churches resume some semblance of normalcy. Responding to these crises has presented exceptional challenges for leaders. Drawing upon theological and constitutional resources available to us as Presbyterians, we propose leadership training for pastors on the Gulf Coast and elsewhere that will focus on the work of the pastor and the session.

By attending this training provided by recognized leaders in their fields, the pastor will:

1. Identify their primary leadership style and learn alternatives suited to the changing contexts for ministry.
2. Explore models for officer training that equip officers to answer their call to leadership.
3. Rethink the shape of session meetings so that they are intentionally the work and workshop of the church.
4. Explore models of strategic planning in order that sessions might better lead congregations in the work of discerning God's vision for their missional context.

SAMPLE 3

Program

Title: The Cornerstone Project: Developing Healthy Patterns for Successful Ministry

Contact

Information: The Rev. Dr. Daniel M. Saperstein, Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Plains and Peaks
710 Eleventh Avenue, Suite L-75
Greenly, CO 80634

Program

Description: The first years of ordained ministry set the pattern for a lifetime of service in the church. The Cornerstone Project seeks to form patterns of ministry in recently-ordained pastors that contribute to healthy ministers and healthy congregations. The project involves a year-long program designed to build competence, confidence, and community in and among the participants quarterly for three-day retreats. The retreats will seek to provide contextual learning in the following areas:

- Personal and family self-care
- Understanding congregational systems
- Leading congregational transformation
- Conflict management
- Maintaining spiritual and professional vitality in ministry

It will also seek to develop community among the participants for personal support in ministry and address issues arising out of the context of ministry as identified by the participants.

SAMPLE 4

Program

Title: Stewardship

Contact

Information: Diana J. Barber, Associate Synod Executive for Leadership Development
Synod of Lakes and Prairies
2115 Cliff Drive
Eagan, MN 55122

Program

Purpose: Within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, stewardship is a major problem for the churches of our Presbyteries. The purpose of this proposal is to help clergy throughout the denomination

find greater comfort and success in addressing the issue of stewardship within our Presbyterian congregations.

Program

Description: Within the Synod, while stewardship and funds development is often identified as an issue and an area of needed skills development, participation in classes and events has not always met expectations. When pastors have been targeted for training in the past, it has not always been possible to determine whether the training translated into any meaningful change in the giving patterns of congregations.

This program is intentionally a pilot program in which we seek to address these realities by again targeting clergy who provide key leadership in congregations. Additionally the pilot will seek to determine whether the addition of intentional coaching following initial training is a viable means of sustaining the energy created in the training and ensuring some degree of follow-through in congregations. We will include training not only for pastors, but also for a cadre of folks who would subsequently serve as coaches for the pastors who participate.

If this model proves to be effective in the pilot, we expect that we would replicate it in additional locations within our Synod and would encourage other governing bodies to consider it for their own use.

SAMPLE 5

Program

Title: Meditation Skills: Resolving Conflict in the Congregation

Contact

Information: Jan Devries, Synod Executive/Stated Clerk
Synod of the Southwest
401 E. 4th Street #A
Tucson, AZ 85705

Program

Purpose: Our denomination has become increasingly fractious. Advocacy groups on every side of divisive national issues push their assertions as the only acceptable response. What were only disagreements have now become separations. Congregations are the frontlines in experiencing church divisions. It is critical that congregational leadership develop skills in conflict mediation, skills not anticipated in formal seminary education.

Program

Description: Synod of the Southwest and the four presbyteries which constitute the synod propose to offer an intensive week (Monday through Friday) of professional meditation training led by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (Lombard, IL) in September of 2007.

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is uniquely qualified to lead this week for the Synod of the Southwest. This course is one among many they have developed over the years benefiting the leadership of local congregations. The Peace Center issues a certificate in Mediation Training for those completing the course which also qualifies participants to lead their trademarked two day seminar "Healthy Congregations".