**The Committee on Mission and Witness 2025 Session Endorsed Grant Application**

*The Presbytery of Geneva lives to support and equip congregations and leaders to be Christ in the*

*Finger Lakes and the world.* “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25: 35-36, 40)

***The Matthew 25 Session-Endorsed*** grant highlights the PC(USA) Matthew 25 Initiative:

* eradicating systemic poverty
* dismantling structural racism
* promoting congregational vitality

Funds are available for specific projects of local congregations and/or for projects/agencies/ministries which are an extension of that congregation’s service in their wider Geneva Presbytery community. The purpose of the program is to encourage congregations to engage in mission within the ***regional boundaries*** of the Presbytery. Funding this year will be limited to up to $4,000 per project and is for one year only.

***Beyond the Presbytery Matthew 25 Session-Endorsed Grant***, highlights initiatives ***outside of the Geneva* *Presbytery*** and includes additional funds up to $4,000 for projects/agencies/ ministries which are an extension of that presbytery congregation’s service. This might include, but not be limited to programs such as Living Waters for the World, the Puerto Rico Partnership, and others. The same criteria for completing the application will apply. Please use the Matthew 25 application form and indicate “***Beyond the Presbytery***” on the form.

This year, 2025, there are changes in the application process. Please read the application carefully before submission. Applications can be found on the Committee on Mission and Witness page at: [Committee on Mission & Witness – Presbytery of Geneva](https://www.presbyteryofgeneva.org/committee-on-mission-witness). Questions should be directed to that address with Matthew 25 in the subject line.

CRITERIA: *Grant applications must*

* be endorsed by the session of a Presbytery of Geneva congregation and noted and signed in the box at the end of the application. (First priority will be given to projects that work on poverty, specifically food insecurity, and secondarily, racism and which, by extension address congregational vitality.)
* demonstrate a clear connection between the congregation and the local community. (Preference will be shown to *new congregational initiatives* that further the mission of the congregation and involve people of the community.)
* make a significant difference in the lives of people who confront poverty and racism.
* have a reasonable chance of success.
* be measurable in terms of outcomes or benefits.
* demonstrates a variety of funding sources.
* adhere to all word counts.
* use Times New Roman 12 font.

*Applicants must*

* agree to provide a 6-month progress report on the project (a form will be sent). (Completion of this may be considered in applications in the future.)
* Obtain Session endorsement, then submit application as a ***Google*** (.doc or .docx) electronically to missionandwitness@presbyteryofgeneva.org.
* The deadline for completed applications for 2025 funding is ***~~Friday, February 28, 2025~~***. ***Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.*** *\*\*\** **Please note that the deadline for the 2025 Matthew grants applications have been extended until Monday, March 31, 2025, although you are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible.  The remaining deadlines will also be adjusted, but at this time have not yet been determined**. \*\*\*
* Notifications will be made no later than the end of April, with checks being sent in two waves. The first wave will include those whose applications are to alleviate food insecurity, and the second wave will include the remainder of the grants. Applicants will be notified before checks are sent.
* Need assistance or have questions? Simply use the same address.
* 2025 applicants who received an award in 2024 MUST include a brief update about the “blessing of the 2024 award upon their ministry. This may or may not be included in the Geneva Presbytery Newsletter. Photos will be appreciated.
* ***NOTE:*** Given the degree of food insecurity, homelessness, refugee displacement, veteran’s needs, among other challenges within the presbytery and beyond, funding is specific to projects, rather than individuals.

***Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.***

For your convenience, please use the following check list. Do *not* submit this with the application.

* Deadline met
* Contact information is complete and correct
* Indicate within presbytery or beyond presbytery
* Pertinent financial information included
* Times New Foman font, 12
* Word count compliance
* Session approval secured
* Do ***NOT*** include the cover pages with your application.
* 6-month progress report included for returning 2024 applicants

***APPLICATION***

Date Submitted:

Name of Congregation and Location:

Project Name:

Organizational Partner:

Contact person for project, for follow-up information: ***name, phone, e-mail***.

To whom and where should the check be made payable? Provide organization name

and address, and cell phone for payment verification. This information is required to process payment.

Payable to:

For new programs, anticipated program start-up date:

Amount requested:

Please indicate: Within the Presbytery

 Beyond the Presbytery

Project Description: Please briefly describe the project in no more than ***500*** words and how the

project embodies the grant criteria.

Goals: What are your hoped-for outcomes? How will you evaluate the success of the program in

relation to Matthew 25?

Financial Information for this Project: Please include a current year budget of income and

expenses for this project ***only*** (or a proposed budget for new projects), including in-kind support,

identifying all income sources.

Who will implement the project?

How will congregation and community members be involved?

Mission Statement(s):

Please provide the most recent mission statement from your church and, if applicable, the mission

statement of the organizational partner.

Obtain session approval from the sponsoring church, then submit the completed application.

The Session of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has approved and endorsed this

2024 grant application and it is recorded in the session minutes dated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If funded, we agree to share with Mission and Witness Committee stories (and photographs, if available) of how this project has impacted our neighbors’ lives.

Name and email of Clerk or Moderator of Session.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.