



THE SYNOD OF THE TRINITY

New Initiative Grants for Presbyteries

In an era in which the Church is confronted with massive cultural and contextual change along with enormous opportunities to reach people for Jesus Christ, it is critical that we build the church's capacity to respond faithfully to those opportunities through faithful innovation. The New Initiative for Presbyteries Grant process is intended to provide a means to provide funding and encouragement to presbyteries to stimulate innovation and creativity in mission and ministry through funds specifically designated for new initiatives.

The objectives of this program are:

- 1) To provide funding to presbyteries to stimulate new initiatives in mission and ministry.
- 2) To encourage financial stewardship by providing "matching" dollars wherever possible.
- 3) To provide a source of funding outside of the Synod budget process for experimental and innovative initiatives attempting to address the challenges of our new context for mission.
- 4) To encourage opportunities for exploration and incubation without fear of failure.
- 5) To focus resources and creativity, as much as possible, on mission areas identified as priorities of The Synod of the Trinity.
 - a. Leader Development, including Racial/Ethnic and New Immigrant Leader Development
 - b. Missional Church Development
 - c. Campus Ministry
 - d. Communications

In order to encourage creativity and to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, the Synod will seriously and prayerfully consider any applications that come forward, but priority consideration will be given to those applications that:

- 1) Represent a new or innovative way of achieving stated results.
- 2) Address an issue in the area of Leader Development, Missional Church Development, Campus Ministry or Communications.
- 3) Can be easily adapted and incorporated in other presbyteries.
- 4) Grow out of partnership between two or more presbyteries.
- 5) Seek to achieve specific and measurable results.

Process for “New Initiatives for Presbyteries” –

Approved October 10-11, 2011

Synod of the Trinity Stated Meeting – State College, Pennsylvania

1. New Initiatives will be available to presbyteries to share presbytery funding for new proposals.
2. Information about New Initiatives, including the approval process and proposal format, will be posted on the Synod Website.
3. When received by the Synod office, New Initiative proposals shall first be considered by Treasurer and/or the Finance and Budget Committee for the purpose of determining availability of funding.
4. If funding is available for the proposal, the New Initiative proposal shall then be considered by the New Initiatives Task Force who will base their recommendation on the consideration of:
 - a. Appropriateness of project within the scope of Synod Mission
 - b. Sustainability
 - c. Potential benefit to larger church
 - d. Means of evaluation and sharing of learning
 - e. Clear, specific, complete planning
5. The New Initiatives Task Force will be made up of 3 Commissioners appointed by the Moderator of Synod and 2 Executive Presbyters (Teaching Presbyter, Pastor to the Presbytery or General Presbyter) named by the Synod EP Forum.
6. Decisions by this Task Force will be reported to Synod Commissioners.
7. Every year, the New Initiatives Task Force assignments and process will be reviewed and updated as part of the budgeting process.

