Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Worldwide Ministries Committee Grant Application Guidelines

We are pleased that you are interested in becoming a partner in the ministries of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. We look forward to working and learning with you.

Our goal is to establish productive and meaningful partnerships for mission across the US and around the world. We focus on key criteria so that those whom we are able to fund will receive our full attention and a true partnership can develop between your organization and ours. Our plan is to promote those projects we fund throughout the life of our congregation – so that Sunday school classes may raise funds or send letters, youth may plan a mission trip to your site, and adults may meet to study your program and the issues that it involves. What all the partnership entails will of course be worked out with you according to your needs, gifts, and interests, as well as ours.

Central to our focus is the importance of mission that empowers those it serves. We welcome programs that do not simply give, but recognize the gifts of the community and involve community members in their own spiritual, physical, intellectual, and financial improvement. We will be glad to explore with you how our goal might mutually benefit our two organizations. We seek your initial comments in the application.

Please complete and return the application form electronically to Grants@bmpc.org and include all requested materials when filing an application. A response will confirm that your application has been received. If you do not receive a response that your application has been received, please contact jennifermcarthur@bmpc.org.

The deadline for applications for the 2027 calendar year is February 26, 2027. Applications received after that date will only be considered if any funds are available. Funding decisions will be made in the late spring/early summer. All recipients are expected to submit both narrative and financial reports of how the grant was used to BMPC by the end of the calendar year.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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Grant Selection Criteria – Helpful Information to Consider

"Serving Christ in the world, Presbyterians are involved in seeking thoughtful solutions to the challenges of our time."

The mission statement of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church is as follows:
We are a community of faith, challenged, strengthened and transformed by the God who is revealed to us in Christ. We…

- *welcome all who would follow Christ*
- *prefer truth to complacency*
- *strive to connect faith and life*
    - *serve and leaven the church, community, and wider world through compassionate and empowering ministries.*

Evaluation Criteria
Each grant application will be evaluated based on a rubric that ties to the above mission statement of the Church and the goals of the Worldwide Ministries Council. Applicants are invited to visit our web site at bmpc.org to understand more about whom we are and our mission. We are broadly focusing on programs that connect faith and life by:

- Responding to immediate and future needs of others by provision of goods, services and training (ministries of compassion).
- Directly addressing a cause(s) or injustice(s) of immediate need (ministries of justice).
- Collaborating with other community organizations, whether they are faith communities or service organizations. We are especially interested in collaboration that crosses traditional boundaries such as religion, ethnicity, or class.

Additionally, we are looking for the programs that do the following:
Engage Community.
We seek to support programs that (1) engage the community in program implementation and (2) focus on community assets (not perceived deficits). The community knows best what its needs are and what expectations are realistic. Therefore, there should be evidence of the served community's involvement as well as a clear understanding of the community being served, what its assets are, and what it needs to be successful.

Build Self-Sufficiency.
We seek to support programs that foster self-sufficiency and empowerment, rather than teaching dependence.
Self-evaluate Using Measurable Outcomes.
We seek to support programs that are focused on measurable outcomes; i.e., clearly defined means of assessing success.
Practice Accountability.
We seek to support programs that are financially responsible and transparent.