



Community Engagement Fund



Reaching out to the South Shore community.

Overview and Application

United Church of Christ Norwell

460 Main Street | Norwell, MA 02061 | uccnorwell.org

Beyond These Walls: Community Engagement Fund

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:19-20

Rationale:

UCC Norwell is a vital part of the South Shore and a dynamic community of faith. In order to foster our spirit of vitality and mission of creating ministers to the world, we are endeavoring to understand the community we live in, and to effectively engage it. There are many people in our region who care about faith and church, but a variety of activities compete for their time and attention. By reaching out, new people may find their way into our community, and our community's vitality will endure and be enhanced. Our goal is to develop the capacity to take our ministries out into the South Shore community that we serve.

UCC Norwell has created the Community Engagement Fund, a financial resource to help us reach out to our neighbors on the South Shore and build new relationships outside our church. We have a rich history of engaging in significant ministries that powerfully connect with the outside world. It is our intention that as we reach out, new people will find their way in to our community, and that they might become impassioned, as we are, to engage in ministry throughout the South Shore and the world.

Grant Criteria:

Church members can request funds for any ministry they want to bring out into our community that is aligned with the mission and values of members. There must be a direct connection to at least two members of UCC Norwell, and two or more people from our South Shore community must be committed to the ministry in order for funds to be released. Proposals must demonstrate clearly how the proposed project will connect people outside UCC Norwell on the South Shore to the new ministerial initiative. These criteria should be applied to grant requests. In return, they will be reviewed with a generous spirit and a degree of flexibility.

- Initiatives must align with UCC Norwell's mission and values.
- A team of at least 2 UCC members must be part of the ministry initiative.
- Ministries must actively and directly engage people on the South Shore who do not currently participate in our church ministries.

The Community Engagement Fund will not consider:

- Capital campaigns
- For-profit organizations
- Research
- Governmental agencies
- Loans
- Political parties

Examples of past CEF grants:

- Linden Ponds Community Church
- Mark Hayes Musical Weekend
- Being Mortal—how to ask difficult end-of-life questions
- Eyes Wide Open Human Trafficking awareness
- Thank you Cancer, Thank you God
- Rehoboth House Supper Club
- Expansion of Puppet Team Phase I & 2
- Park Street Angel Docudrama

Community Engagement Funding Request Application

Project Name: _____

Application Date: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Scheduled Review Period: _____

Primary contact for this proposal:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please describe the proposed project.

Please list the names of the members of the UCC Norwell congregation who are directly involved in this project and primary contacts for proposal.

How will you use these funds? Please provide as much detail as possible, including a budget and disbursement plan.

Referring to the attached statement of UCC's core values, please describe how your project aligns with and supports those core values.

How will the requested funds engage UCC Norwell and the South Shore community?

How did you determine that there is a need for this project?

How will you measure the success of your efforts?

Please provide any additional information necessary to evaluate your request.

Use additional pages or other materials at your discretion.

Please return to: UCC Norwell | 460 Main Street | Norwell, MA 02061

Our interior life as a congregation:

Inspiring worship. We value being a joyful community that centers its life in worship of God known in Jesus Christ and experienced in the Holy Spirit.

Gifts and call. We value helping members discover and use their gifts in response to God's call to minister.

Small groups. We value being part of small groups that inform and nurture our inner and outer journeys as Christians.

Inclusive hospitality. We value being an intentional and inclusive community that welcomes all persons, creates a safe and hospitable environment for growth in faith and cares for one another in times of need.

Our mission and service in God's world:

Ministry and mission. We value being a congregation in mission in which every member connects the gospel message to their life to be an extension of Christ's ministry, and shares the Good News of God's reconciling love.

Education for ministry. As children, youth and adults we search, reflect, question, and journey together toward understanding our relationship to God and what faith means in all parts of our lives, empowering us for our ministries in home, school, work, community, nation, and world.

Risk-taking. We are willing to take risks to explore new opportunities for ministry and to set aside ministries when we no longer sense God's leading.

Stewardship of our resources:

Ministry teams. We value working in “ministry teams” of two or more persons, supporting and empowering each other, as we address the needs of the congregation and the wider world.

Organizational structure. We value an organizational structure that empowers our mission and ministries and is flexible to meet new challenges.

Church building. We value using our building for service to the wider community and see this as part of our ministry.

Giving. We believe in giving generously of our time, talent and treasure, seeking to be faithful stewards of all our resources.

How to Apply

Please submit the following:

- Cover Sheet
- Full application narrative (up to 3 pages)
- Project budget and/or operating budget if available
- EIN # if applicable
- Include project name and amount requested on each page of the application

For directions, forms, and details go to www.uccnorwell.org or email the CEF team at office@uccnorwell.org.

When to Apply

You may submit a proposal at any time. Email submissions are preferred (office@uccnorwell.org) or completed grant applications may be mailed to UCC Norwell, 460 Main Street, P.O. Box 501, Norwell, MA 02061, Attn: CEF Team. You will be notified when your grant application has been received.

Evaluation and Review Criteria for CEF Grants

Community Engagement Fund (CEF) proposals will be reviewed with a generous spirit and a degree of flexibility. The following criteria were adopted from the Capital Campaign document and will be used to evaluate proposals:

- The request for funds must be made by at least two church members regarding a ministry initiative to bring to the community.
- The ministry must align with the mission and core values of UCC Norwell.
- The ministry must actively and directly engage at least two people from our South Shore community who do not currently participate in our church ministries.
- It must be demonstrated how the ministry will connect people on the South Shore outside UCC Norwell to the new ministerial initiative.

Background considerations: The Committee will...

- encourage funding projects by existing ministry teams.
- consider whether there will be ongoing involvement of church members in the project.
- ask if this grant is more appropriately made by Mission & Outreach or other funding mechanisms.
- determine what methods of accountability exist and how these methods will be applied to monitor expenses. e.g. pre- and post-project reporting by a church member who is part of the ministry team.
- determine how the success of each project will be measured: will UCC Norwell be enriched, and benefit the South Shore community?
- consider whether the funds expended may be recaptured if the project is not successful or sustainable.
- or may seek complementary funding by outside groups or sources.
- ask if this can be a learning process for the a CEF ministry team and / or for the whole Congregation?

This is a fund with limited resources. Once the funds are expended, we cannot be a source for ongoing requests. Think of this as a Kickstarter program for church. This puts a premium on creative thinking for future funding.

We may suggest refinements to the project or request a pause to accomplish the desired objectives.