

Criteria for Spiritual Formation Grants (Adopted November 2024)

The following criteria are for Spiritual Formation commission grants addressing the pastoral needs of all ages in the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri. These criteria assume that the local congregation, deanery or individual partially contributes to support these ministries in addition to Spiritual Formation commission grants.

Spiritual or Faith Formation ministries and programs focus on deepening a person's relationship with God, forming communities of faith, and empowering members to live out their Baptismal promises in everyday life. The goal of these ministries is to encourage and nurture spiritual growth, Christian practices, and theological education and reflection in the Episcopal community's faith tradition.

Spiritual Formation Commission grants are awarded for:

- Requests for funds to start up or begin a new faith or spiritual formation ministry in a local congregation, deanery, or diocesan-wide program.
Example:
A congregation plans to begin an adult small group ministry but lacks the funds for training and resources to begin this new ministry.
- Requests for funds to expand or enhance an existing faith or spiritual formation ministry in a local congregation, deanery, or diocesan-wide program.
Example:
A congregation has a robust children's ministry but wants to enhance the existing ministry by introducing 'Godly Play'. They need training and 'Godly play' manipulatives to expand this ministry, which are not in the current budget.
- Request for matching funds for a faith or spiritual formation ministry in a local congregation, deanery, or diocesan-wide program that is experiencing financial hardship.
Example:
A congregation has recently had to replace an aging heating and air conditioning system which negatively impacted the congregation's yearly budget. The congregation has an existing youth ministry, but due to current temporary budget restrictions, cannot afford a stipend for a youth minister or program expenses.
- Requests for supplement fees or tuition in a faith or spiritual formation program for individuals that are experiencing financial need.
Example:

A single parent has wanted to enroll in 'Education for Ministry' for some time. They are committed to give the time and energy to EFM, but the full tuition and book fees are an unrealistic burden to their current budget.