

2020 Community Transformation Grant

The Turner Center at Martin Methodist College is proud to announce our 2020 Community Transformation Grant. Eligible churches and Districts serving rural areas are invited to apply for one-time grants of up to \$5,000. This year, two grants will be awarded.

Rural churches are places of unique strengths in their community. In our Wesleyan tradition, the rural church was the backbone of the community and the early Methodist movement, making important and lasting contributions to rural places. Through the Community Transformation Grant program, we hope to encourage and empower rural churches to continue this tradition of community development.

Community transformation can happen in many ways. Programs might seek to combat a specific need or challenge, like literacy, workforce development, or hunger. Or, they might seek to build on an opportunity that adds to the quality of life in the community, like cultivating artistic talent for the public. All projects serve as reminders that our rural communities are places of joy, life, and promise.

The Turner Center will award two \$5,000 grants to a project that shows a clear understanding of the context in which the church or District work will take place, demonstrates a commitment to revealing and cultivating the gifts in our rural communities, and seeks to make a contribution to the life of the wider community.

About the Grant

Eligibility

Rural congregations in the Nashville Episcopal Area are eligible to apply. A list of rural congregations can be found at www.cultivaterural.com. If you have questions about determining your eligibility, please contact the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College.

Though it is not required, congregations are encouraged to partner with other congregations, community stakeholders, such as non-profits, schools, or businesses in order to maximize the potential for impact in the community. Evidence of support from these partners should be noted within the application.

While Districts are eligible to apply, the scope of this project must be concentrated within the rural areas of their district. A list of rural churches in each district can be obtained by contacting the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College. If funding an existing project, Districts must demonstrate how this grant will be used in rural areas specifically.

What Kind of Projects Will be Funded?

Community transformation projects seek to make a meaningful impact on any area of the community, including economic development, education, healthcare, natural and built environments, and improving the enjoyability and quality of life within their community or region.

Submit a copy of the application to:
Turner Center at Martin Methodist College
Rev. Allen Stanton, Executive Director
433 West Madison Street, Pulaski, TN 38478
turnercenter@martinmethodist.edu
www.cultivaterural.com

The selected project will:

- Connect the life of the congregation to the surrounding community.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the challenges, gifts, and potential of the rural community in which they serve.
- Show a clearly defined goal.
- Reflect a theology of evangelism that exceeds a simple focus on church growth.
- Be both realistic and visionary.

In addition, we prefer projects that:

- Invite community partnerships, including non-profits, businesses, and county/local government.
- Come from small-membership churches with limited resources (less than 100 in worship).
- Demonstrate a deep joy for the ministry of rural congregations.
- Connect spiritual and lived realities of a community.

What Won't be Funded?

Projects that won't be funded include:

- Continuing education for the applicant(s);
- Compensation of staff totaling more than 10% of the total grant;
- Food costs that are not connected to the community transformation project;
- Projects that seek to improve clergy competency, such as workshops on preaching and worship leadership. Improving competency may be a byproduct of this work, but it should not be the primary goal.
- Capital expenses, such as building projects and renovations will generally not be funded. If you believe your project requires a capital expense, please contact the Turner Center to discuss eligibility.
- Projects that have increasing average worship attendance as their soul intention.

How Can I Apply?

Applications can be completed online at www.cultivaterural.com. Alternatively churches are invited to mail a hard copy of their application to:

The Turner Center at Martin Methodist College
433 West Madison Street, Pulaski TN

Will You Review My Application?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Turner Center to discuss ideas and feedback about your project. Please email astanton@martinmethodist.edu to discuss your idea. While these conversations will not guarantee funding, they may be helpful in crafting your proposal or in finding other resources to help with your project.

Projects not funded will receive a letter explaining areas that could be improved. We are happy to provide more feedback on why applications were not selected upon request.

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The Application:

In addition to the attached application, answers to the following questions should total no more than 750-1000 words (3-4 pages, single spaced).

- 1) Briefly describe your project. Please include a timeline, and any key partners and the key leaders in your community, congregation, and district, that will be leading this project. *Why We Ask: We want to hear more about your work, and who will be involved. And, it's important for us to know how long you intend for this project to last.*
- 2) What are the needs and opportunities in your community? What evidence leads you to this conclusion? (Please avoid statements like, “We are the poorest county in TN” without any supporting evidence. *Why We Ask: The best community leadership comes from knowing the community well, and seeing the opportunities and challenges within them. Reverting to unproven assumptions shows a disconnect from the community in which we serve, and is usually an indication that projects will not be successful.*
- 3) How have you been engaged with these challenges and cultivated these opportunities so far? *Why We Ask: We want to know what sort of steps you've already taken in preparing for this work. Maybe you've hosted a community meeting, or just listened to a lot of people. Maybe you already have a successful project. Gauging the current engagement will help us to determine whether the scope of the proposed project is appropriate for the timeline and the stage of planning.*
- 4) How will this project impact these needs and challenges? How will they take advantage of the opportunities? *Why We Ask: Why did you select this work to engage this challenge or opportunity? What makes this the right approach at this time?*
- 5) How will you know that the project has been successful? What metrics will you use to show success? *Why We Ask: It's important to have a way of knowing how successful something has been. Sometimes, that's by collecting the stories of those involved. Sometimes, it's measuring specific items, like how well a child can read, or the amount of food distributed. Please note: Participation by itself is not sufficient metric.*

Timeline

January 1, 2020: Completed Proposals are due. Proposals can be submitted online at cultivaterural.com or mailed to the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College.

No Later than February 28, 2020: Grant Award Announced. Funds distributed within 14 days of processing paperwork. Project must begin within 45 days of receiving funds.

February 28, 2021: Final Report with budget due.

A site visit will be scheduled during the course of your project. This will be the midyear evaluation.

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TURNER CENTER

at MARTIN METHODIST COLLEGE

Cultivating Thriving Rural Communities

Rural Community Transformation Grant

Application Cover Sheet

Applicant Church or District: _____

County: _____ District: _____ Conference: _____

Pastor or Staff Lead: _____ Phone: _____

Church Physical Address:
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Church Mailing Address:
PO/Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____ Preferred Phone: _____

Please list the leaders who will be responsible for implementing this program, including name, email and phone number. Teams should include at least one lay person. If there are any outside partners, please list a contact name, organization, and contact information below.

In one sentence tell us what you will be doing with the Community Transformation Grant.

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Disclaimers

By signing and submitting this application, we understand and agree that:

- *We may be contacted for questions about our application materials as part of the grant review process.*
- *Any grants disbursed from the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College must be used for the exclusive purposes of the budget detailed in the application.*
- *Failure to meet the terms of the grant, including non-approved modifications to the program, purpose, partners, or budget, will result in a termination and/or repayment of the grant funds.*
- *If selected for the grant, we agree to provide the appropriate documentation, including but not limited to a signed I-9 from our congregation and signed copies of the terms and conditions, required by the Turner Center and Martin Methodist College in an expedient manner. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of the grant award.*
- *An application and any further conversation is not a guarantee or promise of funds.*
- *All information contained in this application is accurate to the best of our ability. Should any of this information change at any point, we will notify the Turner Center immediately.*

Signatures

Name, Pastor

Date

Name, Staff Lead (if not Pastor)

Date

Name, Team Lead (if not Pastor)

Date

Name, Lay Leadership

Date

Name, Partner

Date

Name, Partner

Date

Name, Partner

Date

Name, Other

Date

Name, Other

Date

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Cultivating Thriving Rural Communities

Rural Community Transformation Grant Budget Template

BUDGET and JUSTIFICATION		
	Year One Budget	Purpose of Proposed Expenditure
SOURCE OF REVENUE		
Community Transformation Grant		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$	
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS		

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