

MATTHEW 25 GRANT

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Date Prepared _____

Contact Person/s Email _____

Church _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Matthew 25 Initiative Name _____

Initiative Leader _____ Projected Start Date _____

The Matthew 25 Grant is designed to align financial support from the presbytery with new, imaginative, faithfully risky, adaptive mission initiatives generated by our churches, which fit within the definition of being a Matthew 25 mid council: **building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.**

The purpose of the grant is to encourage the creation of new ventures in our churches rather than supporting the reworking of existing programs already in place. It is hoped that such new mission ventures will include:

- Rural, remote, or urban churches conceiving new ministries to impact marginalized populations and address persistent, chronic needs in the local community.
- Churches investing in mutual relationships and the shared exchange of gifts among wider racial/ethnic groups and more diverse economic conditions.
- Building new, concrete steps toward bridging significant gaps between the current church and the church embodying its local realities, demographics, and diversity.

If approved, a church will receive a Matthew 25 Grant of up to \$5,000, ordinarily on a one-time basis. Matching funds are encouraged. It is expected that applicants will have spent time in prayer, discernment, and fact-finding regarding resources needed, intended short and long-term results, and crafting a comprehensive plan to accomplish them.

Please answer the following questions on no more than two pages, single-spaced:

- Describe the initiative and how the church is involved and invested in its progress;
- Describe how it fits one, or more, of the Matthew 25 foci;
- How will this mission be new? Imaginative? Bold? Adaptive? *(please answer the question for each)*
- If this is expected to become an ongoing initiative, describe how its sustainability will gain a foothold;

- How do you envision this impacting 1) the community? and 2) the church?
- How will success be monitored? How will informed pivots be tracked?

***Please provide a proposed budget of first-year funding and expenses.**

Recipients will be asked to attend a meeting for an initial conversation and then to provide updates of their outcomes, on a *quarterly basis*, with the Committee on Church Transformation. Those successfully obtaining a grant will be available to offer learnings with other churches participating or considering the grant.