

The First English Lutheran Church Reach Fund Information Sheet

The Reach Fund exists to equip bold ministry ventures that have great promise but require the support of some initial investment of funds. The people of First English Lutheran Church invite you to imagine and plan for new endeavors rooted in Christian discipleship and reaching in Christian ministry.

General Intent of Fund Operation: The people of FELC, acting through their Congregational Council, will provide funds for creative ventures that show promise to (a) grow the proposer's own discipleship and that of others, and (b) multiply the effects of the initial investment of time, energy, and financial resources.

We rely on the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and on the discernment of God's calling by the proposers and the Fund committee. Therefore we avoid narrow restrictions on the kinds of endeavors that may merit support. We will use broad guidelines, hoping that these will liberate rather than confine the vision of powerful new ideas and ventures.

Who is Eligible? We encourage ideas for ministry from within and beyond FELC. The primary applicant must be an active member of FELC.

What Kinds of Proposals can be Supported? We challenge our members and others to think boldly and creatively, seeking the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to fire their spirits. We will remain open and flexible as the stewards of the Reach Fund. In general, endeavors should show promise as reaches in faith and discipleship. Projects should move participants forward in their faith journey and deeper into God's purposes for the world.

Ventures more likely to be supported will usually have some of these features:

- Evident promise of growth in the proposer's discipleship
- Involvement of several people
- Broad effect
- Responsiveness to a critical local, national, or global community need
- Promise to engage others in a growing ministry
- Significance for faith education
- Likelihood of becoming self-sufficient or attracting other ongoing support

What Applications will not be Funded? Because the purpose of the Fund is to support new reaches in discipleship and ministry, the Fund will not support proposals for already existing and ongoing ministries. However, new ventures by existing organizations will be considered.

Size and Duration of Project Grants: We currently intend to provide total support per year in the range of \$12,000-18,000. Since we hope to support a variety of new endeavors each year, grants of more than \$5000 are unlikely.

Multiple-year support is possible, and we encourage larger initial investments, with diminishing need for Fund support, where appropriate. Reach Fund financial support of a venture beyond two or three years will be unusual.

Reach Fund Mini-grants: To encourage creative ventures by children and youth, mini-grants up to \$500 are available. The general guidelines above apply to mini-grants as well.

Writing Your Application and Getting a Response: Applications will be accepted beginning January 2, 2014. They will be considered for approval by the Congregational Council, on the recommendation of the Fund committee. To apply, use the application form available on the FELC website and in the Church Office.

Generally, proposed timelines should be in yearly increments. For example, a new endeavor might extend over a few months during a calendar year, or might overlap years or extend through 2 or more years. But the support request should be broken down on a per-calendar-year basis.

The Fund committee and FELC Church Council will respond to requests in a timely manner. For example, applications submitted during January and February would normally receive a response by March 31. March through May applications would normally have a response by June 30, etc. The committee will, however, always attempt to be flexible in responding to especially time-sensitive requests.

Storytelling: An important responsibility of the Fund committee is to share the stories of the new ventures supported by the Fund with the congregation and community. The primary applicant and other venture participants are part of the team to accomplish this sharing.

Record-Keeping and Reports: Applicants will be asked to keep venture records of how the funds are spent, as well as receipts. The Fund committee may ask for these during the venture period, and they will be part of a final report, along with a narrative account of how the venture was conducted and what its results have been.

Questions? Feel free to ask for clarification and help. Call our Parish Administrator, Nicole, at 765 962 5773. [This text was approved by the Fund committee on June 19, 2013.]



First English Lutheran Church Reach Fund Application for Funding

*How is the Holy Spirit calling you to reach further in faith – and what do you need to pursue that calling?
The “REACH” Fund is designed to remove financial barriers that might stand in the way of God’s calling being accomplished in new and exciting ways!*

Section 1: Primary Applicant Information

We encourage ideas for ministry from within and beyond the membership of First English Lutheran Church. The Primary Applicant must be an active member of First English.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Section 2: Proposed Ministry Endeavor Information

Please utilize this section to describe and detail your proposal. The strongest proposals will include a healthy combination of vision and measurable steps for bringing that vision to life!

What is the name of the Ministry venture?

Please provide a 2-3 sentence summary description of the Ministry endeavor.

Please describe your vision for the proposed Ministry venture, in as much detail as possible. In other words, explain how the world will be changed as a result of this effort?

Who will be invited and/or expected to be involved in this endeavor?

What is your proposed starting date?

Please provide a timeline, with expected benchmarks or goals along the way, to help us better understand how the steps of this ministry effort will unfold, and how progress will be measured. Please provide as much detail as you can.

Is there a proposed end date, or will this effort be ongoing?

How much money are you requesting from the Reach Fund? Please provide a budget proposal for how the money will be utilized – include as much detail as you can.

Keep in mind that grants exceeding \$5000 are unlikely.

Section 3: Spiritual Grounding

What follows are a series of questions to help you describe how this proposed endeavor is

ROOTED

in God's will and in Christ's call to discipleship and

REACHING

out with the Spirit's power in love toward our neighbors, the community and the world.

YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION –

but are encouraged to share meaningful reflections that will ground the goals and efforts of this proposed ministry in your spiritual journey and the mission of God in the world!

- How does this project reflect the will of God?
- How does this project engage and share God's love?
- Describe your sense of calling to pursue this project?
- What excites you about this ministry possibility?
- What challenges do you expect to face in bringing this project to life?
- How does this project align with the ministry of First English Lutheran Church?
- How will this project invite and include people from beyond the membership of First English?
- What particular needs (of the community or world) will this ministry attempt to meet?
- What gifts do you bring to offer toward this ministry?
- What gifts will you need to pursue from others to add to this ministry?
- Have there been particular experiences, events, interests or passions that have led you to submit this proposal?



*Rooted &
Reaching*