

Iowa Conference Thank Offering

Iowa Conference of the United Church Of Christ

2008 Guidelines and Procedures

A. Guidelines:

1. The basic objectives of the Iowa Conference Thank Offering are:
 - a. to nourish the spiritual life of a family and each member in it.
 - b. to turn each person's "thanks giving" into "thanks living."
 - c. to share the thank offerings among God's children so they also have reason to give thanks.
 - d. to gather the thank offerings in order to share with others in God's name.
 - e. to meet human need and work toward the building of God's realm.
 - f. to encourage the Iowa Conference churches to engage in outreach ministries in society.
2. Grants will be made to projects which meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. seek to work at the root causes of poverty or discrimination;
 - b. seek to change unjust systems (e.g. laws, institutions, company practices);
 - c. seek to empower groups for their own self-development;
 - d. seek to help people meet basic human needs;
 - e. seek to strengthen peace and reconciliation in society.
3. Applications will be prioritized on the following basis:
 - a. those sponsored by an ecumenical group in which a UCC congregation is actively involved;
 - b. those sponsored by a UCC congregation;
 - c. those sponsored by an ecumenical group in which a UCC church is not involved, but endorsed by a UCC church;
 - d. those projects supported by a number of churches;
 - e. those projects supported by a UCC church;
 - f. those projects endorsed by a UCC or Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation;
 - g. those projects endorsed by conference staff.
4. Grants will be short-term (i.e. one or two years) with the exception of projects which are so focused on systemic change that they are deemed to justify longer-term funding to effect that change.
5. Projects would have a chance at continuity and of making an impact beyond the life of the grant.
6. Grants normally will be made with attention to conference-wide distribution.
7. No grant will exceed \$1,000.

B. Procedures:

1. The grant process and evaluation shall be administered by the Iowa Conference Family Thank Offering Committee, which will encourage local UCC congregations to undertake outreach ministries and to inform appropriate ecumenical structures of the grant process.
2. The application form available through the Iowa Conference office shall be used, and completed in full.
3. Application must be received by **January 15, 2009**.
4. Applications shall be submitted by UCC churches, pastors, or members.
5. Grant decisions are approved by the Board of Directors in March/April 2009, *at which time applicants will be notified of the decisions.*

**Iowa Conference Thank Offering
Iowa Conference of the United Church Of Christ
2008 Application**

Please answer all questions in the spaces provided on this form.

Name of project: _____

Organization: Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Is the organization a legal corporation? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the organization nonprofit? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the organization ecumenical? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the organization church sponsored? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the organization secular? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

How will you use this grant? (be specific)

What is the purpose of the project:

Amount of grant request: \$ _____ For fiscal period _____

Check which of the criteria you believe this projects meets: (You may check more than one).

- _____ a. seek to work at the root causes of poverty or discrimination
- _____ b. seek to change unjust systems (e.g. laws, institutions, company practices)
- _____ c. seek to empower groups for their own self-development
- _____ d. seek to help people meet basic human needs
- _____ e. seek to strengthen peace and reconciliation in society
- _____ f. are concerned with the integrity of creation

List your goals for this project (relating them to the above criteria)

Describe the steps that will be taken to realize these goals

Describe how the project will be evaluated:

