

Presbytery Network Structure

There are times when a particular mission effort is larger than one congregation. Congregations, members, or presbyters may combine their energies in partnership with the Presbytery as a Network to accomplish that mission.

Why would an informal network wish to become a formal one? Several reasons are possible. A group may desire one or more of the following: 1) to receive explicit/implicit endorsement of the presbytery; 2) to gain access to presbytery channels of communication; 3) to offer services [training, workshops, retreats, etc.] to our presbytery; or 4) to receive funding from the presbytery for its work.

How do networks differ from committees? Networks are formed based upon the passions of those participating in them and in concert with the presbytery's goals for ministry and mission. Networks are not filled by nominees from presbytery, but voluntarily by persons presenting themselves to serve. Networks are not required to maintain any particular size or composition. Networks are not staffed by presbytery personnel and are free to emerge when a need is identified or disperse when the work is complete.

Networks help us to empower emerging ministries, allow us to become a more passion-driven, presbyter-led presbytery, and provide us with new opportunities to serve Christ together.

Designating Formal Networks

Formal networks are those officially sanctioned by Presbytery through the Networks Support and Grants Committee. The Presbytery designates Networks to support them and provide them with Presbytery resources. Designated Networks offer the Presbytery an opportunity to focus on ministry and mission instead of structure.

Funding Requests & Reimbursement

Funds to support the work of our Networks are budgeted annually in the Presbytery's operating budget. The Network Support and Grants Committee receives annual Network Funding requests and apportions the Presbytery's budgeted Network funds accordingly, at the committee's discretion, with prayer and discernment. Once approved, Network Support monies are paid out to Networks as reimbursement for ministry expense using Network Expense vouchers. We strongly encourage multiple funding sources that may include congregational support, individual donors, community foundations, other grants, etc. Availability of budgeted Network funds one year for any Network does not presume financial support in subsequent years.

Requests for financial aid can be submitted with an initial request for designation as a Network or at any time a Network can describe a budget or spending plan. Network support funding requests for existing Networks are to be submitted by **June 1** of a calendar year for the following calendar year. Existing Networks must submit their reimbursement requests no later than **December 1** of each calendar year.

Name of Network_____ **Date**_____

Update your two contacts so we can communicate with you:

Name_____ **Email address:** _____

Name_____ **Email address:** _____

Network Information

The following asks general information about your network. If you request annual funding this will not change year to year. We ask you to include it as orientation to your ministry.

Please name the congregations, community groups or other institutions represented in your Network:

What are your Network's goals?

What need does your Network meet? What community does it serve?

Why is a network the best way to work at this particular mission or ministry?

Presbytery of the Miami Valley Mission Statement:

The presbytery prepares, equips, nurtures, and connects congregations in their ministries for God's mission.

Our networks further the mission of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. Indicate below which aspect of the Presbytery's mission your Network aligns with and elaborate how your Network furthers this mission.

☐ **This network prepares congregations by...**

☐ **This network equips congregations by...**

☐ **This network nurtures congregations by...**

☐ **This network connects congregations by...**

Financial Aid Information

- 1. Amount of financial aid requested \$_____. Attach 1) a proposed budget for the year and explain how the financial aid will be used and 2) three to five-year financial forecasts or future network financial goals**

- 2. Do you anticipate future requests for annual funding? If so, do you anticipate changes in funding amounts?**

- 3. If the Network has received financial aid through Networks Support Committee, describe the effect of the prior aid.**

- 4. What other funding sources or resources will you use?**

- 5. Does your Network plan to hire a consultant, use presbytery services for mailing or copying, or use meeting space in presbytery offices?**

Please email this form to fire2last@aol.com or mail to: Networks Support Committee, The Presbytery of the Miami Valley, 4417 Bigger Road, Dayton, OH 45440