

Servants Like Jesus Grants

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2008

Does your mission project touch lives for Jesus Christ? **Are you partnering with local United Methodist Churches?** Is this ministry empowering the people in the pews to reach out to the needy in our communities, across Alabama and around the world? These are very important questions for the Servants Like Jesus Team. We want every local church to be challenged and equipped to grow more disciples of Jesus Christ by taking risks and changing lives. You are a vital part of that connection! **We support efforts that encourage church members to get out into the world and make a difference.** Our limited resources are available through the grant process to those who engage in mission and outreach projects that are advancing this goal.

Funding Criteria

We are especially looking for opportunities to provide “**seed money**” for new mission projects or “**matching grants**” towards continuing projects. For example, we might offer matching support towards an amount already being provided by a local church for your ministry. This type of grant helps to foster partnerships and provide incentive for projects connecting the local church, district ministry teams and the North Alabama Conference with mission agencies and various outreach ministries. **Our local churches often remind us that they want to be involved in a hands-on-way in projects that directly serve others.**

The Servants Like Jesus budget is aligned with specific mission goals of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. New and emerging ministries as well as existing ministries specifically engaged in mission and outreach managed by mission agencies, Cooperative Parishes, Advance Specials and other affiliated mission programs are invited to apply for funding.

The SLJ team seeks to support those programs that are **partnering with United Methodist Churches** to make disciples for Jesus Christ across the conference and around the world. The following are the mission areas that serve as criteria for funding:

1) MISSION EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

Providing mission education and training events as well as interpretation

2) MISSION AND MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Hands-on mission ministry both locally and around the world

“Matching grants” are available to assist the local church in launching a mission project that serve those beyond the local congregation.

3) COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Community ministries in the areas of hunger, housing, and children’s ministry.

Funds in this mission area are specifically designed to provide “seed money” for new ministries and should include a plan for long-term funding support

“Matching grants” are available for continuation of ministry are available on limited basis.

4) MISSION CONGREGATIONS

Direct financial support to Mission Congregations

5) MISSION PERSONNEL

Direct financial support of projects or ministries of our North Alabama

Conference missionaries serving locally, nationally, or internationally

Where do the Grant monies come from?

The current grant monies are available from the generous support of local churches through apportioned giving to the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church and Connectional Ministries budget. It is the responsibility of the SLJ Resource Team to provide accountability and good stewardship of these resources.

What are the Mission and Goals of the Conference?

As outlined by the North Alabama Conference vision statement, ***“Every church challenged and equipped to grow disciples of Jesus Christ by taking risks and changing lives”*** and the goal ***“To Become Servants Like Jesus”*** all ministries should focus on:

- GROWING DISCIPLES AND CHANGING LIVES
- ENABLING LOCAL CHURCHES TO BE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY
- PROMOTING HANDS-ON PROJECTS THAT SERVE OTHERS

Application Process

The grant application process for has three steps: (1) applications will be available on-line at www.northalabamaumc.org April 1 each year. Deadline for application to be in the office is September 30 each year. If these dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the next business date will be the deadline. Failure to meet the deadline will result in denial. Grants normally range from \$500 to \$5,000 per project, although all proposals will be thoughtfully considered.

Approved grants will be sent in installments determined by the total amount. The larger the grant, the greater the number of installments throughout the year. A Grant Recipient Report will be sent with your first installment and should be completed and return by the date indicated on the Report.

Deadline for Submitting Grant Application: October 1, 2007

Any application received in our office after this date will not be considered for funding by the SLJ Mission Resource Team for 2008 and will be returned to the applicant.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

SLJ Mission Resource Team, Attn: Paulette West, North Alabama Conference,
898 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35204

If you have any questions, please call (205) 226-7962 or email:
pwest@northalabamaumc.org

Paulette West

Director of Servant Ministries

North Alabama Conference

898 Arkadelphia Road

Birmingham, AL 35204

205-226-7962

pwest@northalabamaumc.org

www.northalabamaumc.org

*"Every church challenged and equipped to grow more disciples
by taking risks and changing lives."*