

# **RECONCILIATION GRANT GUIDELINES**

## **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana**

### **Brief History**

The issue of racial justice is one that appears throughout our history as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). However, the Reconciliation ministry of the church officially began at the General Assembly in 1968 with the approval of the urban Emergency program. Its mission was to work to dismantle racism in our church and society. Reconciliation was reaffirmed as a permanent ministry of the church in 1972. Our 20/20 Vision, adopted at the 2001 General Assembly in Kansas City, MO, included the mandate for the Disciples to become an anti-racist/pro-reconciling Church, a phrase that has recently been changed to a pro-reconciling/anti-racist Church.

### **The Objective**

The objective of the Reconciliation ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana is to undergird reconciling ministries related to the systemic problems of race within our communities in Indiana, seeking to implement the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The 2007 General Assembly held in Fort Worth, Texas approved Resolution number 0731 entitled, “Recommendations Concerning Reconciliation Mission.” Among other things, this resolution re-focused our Reconciliation Grant Guidelines to the work of racial reconciliation and to, “be used for anti-poverty works only if such works contribute directly to the work of racial justice and reconciliation.” We are called to be in prayer together for the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work of the church. “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8) \*

### **I. Purpose of the Commission on Reconciliation**

- A. To interpret the program of Reconciliation to individuals and congregations in Indiana so as to awaken them to the needs and problems of structural or institutional and interpersonal relationships with persons of other races; and to work toward the changing of basic attitudes of racism, unconcern and implanted or developed hatreds, prejudices, and systemic procedure of discrimination.
- B. To stimulate congregations within the region to engage in Reconciliation ministries.

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\* some wording taken from General Assembly Resolution #0731.

- C. To enable congregations to become involved in the program of Reconciliation by providing them with interpretative and promotional materials, suggested local Reconciliation projects and summaries of the types of programs which have been funded.
- D. To encourage programs of Reconciliation in areas where the commission sees need.
- E. To collect and disburse Reconciliation money to programs dealing with problems associated with race, including Region-sponsored anti-racism educational programs.
- F. To establish policies and guidelines and priorities under which grants are made.
- G. To review applications for Reconciliation ministries, give guidance and to allocate funds.

## II. **Policies on Disbursement of Funds**

- A. Proposed projects to be funded will be screened and approved by the Regional Commission on Reconciliation and reported to the Regional Board.
- B. Grants will usually be short term, i.e., 1-3 years. Grants will ordinarily not exceed \$5,000.
- C. A member or members of the Committee on Reconciliation may make periodic "on-site" visits and evaluations each year a project is funded.
- D. The recipients of funds will be asked to give a written report annually to the commission and the regional staff related to this commission.
- E. Priorities will be given to programs which:
  - Seek to overcome the injustices which racial minorities still face;
  - Seek to change systems that cause racial discrimination, e.g., laws, institutions, company policies and practices;
  - Seek to change attitudes through education, personal involvement, and shared common experiences.

- F. Projects proposed will not be considered until the Reconciliation Application Form has been submitted. This form shall include the following:
- Measurable goals and/or objectives;
  - Strategies for reaching the goals and objectives;
  - Available financial resources;
  - Evaluation procedures;
  - Signed by the staff person related to the commission.
- G. Projects should show local initiatives and responsible participation by local Disciple congregations.
- H. Projects should show a great likelihood of continuing beyond the life of the grant unless there is an obvious reason for a short-term project.
- I. Grants will not be made to:
- Organizations or groups which are committed to violence as a means of achieving their purpose;
  - Capital expenditures like buildings, fixtures, equipment or grounds;
  - Programs which have not first explored funding through their local sources or ongoing agencies;
  - Regional Christian Church programs which have their own budgets (i.e., summer Camps and Conference program, Intern program, etc.);
  - Provide loans for business ventures or to liquidate indebtedness;
  - Underwrite salaries for existing staff whose duties are primarily aimed at other tasks.
  - Reconciliation normally does not fund a project's full budget.
- J. **Deadline:** Grants will be made in February, May and September of each year.

**Application by:**

**January 1**

**April 1**

**August 1**

**Funding Decision**

**February**

**May**

**September**

Prior to submitting a grant application, organizations are required to have consulted with a member of the Regional staff.

Application forms are to be signed by the Regional Minister or Associate Regional Minister. Reconciliation grants may not be combined with any other Christian Church in Indiana grant for the same program.

**Reconciliation Grant Guidelines**  
**10/22/07c (cmc)**