

Wisconsin Conference UCC Creation Care Grants Application Form

The Conference Creation Care Team, in response to the Kairos Call to Action, is making grants up to \$1000 available to Wisconsin Conference UCC Congregations. The grants are intended to help churches that are planning initiatives to deepen their love of creation and positively change their relationship with the environment. Funding for these grants comes from The Wisconsin Conference and a 2023 Neighbors in Need Grant.



These initiatives could address:

- new models for community-based cooperation and ministry
- environmental and economic justice work
- theological grounding for your congregation's response to the climate crisis, and/or
- potential leadership identification and development for guiding this and future efforts.

Specific eligibility criteria:

- Projects proposed for funding must relate to creation care or include a substantial creation care-related component, such as: solar panel installation, LED lighting, energy upgrades, faith formation curriculum, outreach, events, climate change response, caring for the Earth, sustainable products, educational materials, etc.
- The projects must include some community outreach, visibility, or impact. This may be as simple as a Kairos newsletter article and an article in a local paper, or a celebration including the community, tours, high visibility from the street, etc. Solar array installations are automatically considered as "highly visible" and having a community and climate benefit.
- Grants will be given to projects currently underway or planned for the current year, not as reimbursement for past projects.
- Grants are awarded up to \$1000 per project. The grant can cover the full amount of the project, or a portion of the project with the church and other sources funding the remaining costs.
- An itemized budget must be included with the application detailing the expected costs.
- A maximum of 3 grants (or \$3000) will be provided per congregation over the life of the grant program (unless additional funding sources are found; this grant program began in 2020).
- Each grant recipient must provide articles for the Kairos newsletter on the progress of the funded project and a final report, preferably with captioned photos (see final report outline at the end of this document).
- Grant recipients must provide a release for reprint of photos, articles and reports in Wis. Conference and national publications (form included at the end of this document).

Additionally, because the Creation Care Team has connected with the Native American communities of Wisconsin, consideration will be given to congregations who use this as an opportunity for both creation care content along with multi-cultural literacy and cooperation. These initiatives can be small or large, focused on enhanced efficiencies, consciousness-raising and education, or organizing and advocacy.

Also, because of the far-reaching dimensions of the climate and ensuing economic crisis, priority consideration will be given to initiatives that somehow connect with multiple partners within or beyond communities the congregation serves.

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Required Grant Information *(please type or write legibly below;
use as much space as needed or attach additional sheets as needed)*

Contact Information:

Name of church: _____

Location: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

email: _____; phone: _____

Project Information:

Describe the project:

Time period for project completion:

Cost Information: *(Please attach a complete budget of the expected project costs).*

Total project cost: _____

Amount of grant request: *(\$1000 maximum)* _____

Volunteer help expected:

Other funding or volunteer partners involved:

Creation Care, Community Involvement and Outreach:

How does the proposed work address creation care, climate change, environmental justice, resource conservation, energy conservation, education or another related topic?

How will this grant involve or positively impact the local and wider community? What outreach steps will be used to involve partners, organizations, and neighbors from outside the congregation?

Is this grant a step in a multi-step or multi-year project? If so, please describe past, current, and future steps:

Permission to Use Images:

The owner/copyright holder(s) of the videos, photographs, images and stories (submitted in progress reports and articles about this project) grants permission and a license to the Wisconsin Conference UCC and the National Setting of the United Church of Christ (including Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ); Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ); United Church of Christ Board; and Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ); and their successors and assigns) to reproduce the videos, photographs, images and stories, in whole or in part, in its displays, publications, web pages, or elsewhere and in any form or medium for an unlimited period of time.

The owner/copyright holder(s) waive any right to inspect or approve of the finished product using such materials, and understand that the submitted materials will not be returned. The owner/copyright holder(s) affirm that the submitted materials are original and that permission for use is granted to the Wisconsin Conference and National Setting from the sole owner/copyright holder of the material, and that neither the materials nor the permission granted hereby infringe upon the rights of any others.

Signatures:

Applicant signature: _____

Date _____

Pastor's signature (if not applicant) _____

Date _____

Moderator/Council President: _____

Date _____

Mail application to Lisa Hart at: Wisconsin Conference UCC, W1000 Spring Grove Rd., Ripon, WI 54971 or email to: lhart@wcucc.org

(see deliverables and reporting requirements on next page)

Grant Reporting and Deliverables for all Funded Projects:

- Completion of the portion of the project covered by the Kairos grant
- Progress reports at logical intervals of completion, including captioned photos
- Articles for the Kairos newsletter (including captioned photos*) at important project milestones (at least one at completion; these articles can count as the progress reports above).
- A release for reprint of photos, articles and reports in Wis. Conference and National publications (form included in the application).
- A final report when the project (or the Kairos grant funded portion) is completed, including this information:
 - Describe the overall project
 - Include captioned photos* (and videos if available)
 - Final total cost (including funds used in addition to the Creation Care grant)
 - Where did you save money
 - What extra costs came up
 - Describe volunteer time contributed
 - Describe partner or community groups that participated
 - What reactions have you received from the congregation
 - What outreach was done, and what response have you heard from the community
 - What would you do differently
 - What advice do you have for other churches doing a similar project
 - Other information you would like to share
 - Photos of key stages of completion.

** Note that captions should only include first names (or even no names) for identity protection.*

Also, we encourage congregations receiving grants to share their stories with the local media (radio, TV, newspaper, websites, social media). A template article is included on the next page. It can also be a guide for Kairos newsletter articles. Please let the Creation Care Team know if your article is used in the local media.

Reports, correspondence, articles, etc. can be sent to Kathy Bartilson at oh2paddle@gmail.com. Kathy will forward the submissions to the Creation Care team members.

Thank-you for starting a creation care project. The Team will be in touch with you soon with a funding decision.

May 2024 version

Example News Release Template:

(the last 2 paragraphs can be omitted when writing articles for the Kairos newsletter)

For Immediate Release:

[insert church name] United Church of Christ Awarded Grant for [insert project description]

[INSERT COMMUNITY NAME (all caps)]: The [insert church name] United Church of Christ (UCC) has received a Wisconsin UCC “Creation Care” grant of \$[insert amount] toward the cost of [insert project description]. [Describe the project purpose, timeline, steps, totals costs, etc.] Project funding is coming from this Creation Care Grant from the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ, [list additional funding sources if any].

[Describe your church and congregation: location in the community, number of members, when established, quotes about the project from the pastor, project lead or “Green Team” members. Describe other steps the congregation is taking for Creation Care and any community outreach involved in this or other ecological or environmental project.]

Since 2020 the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ has offered grants of up to \$1000 to UCC congregations and church groups ready to do projects geared toward energy savings, creation care worship, native plantings, solar panel installation, environmental community outreach and advocacy, etc.

The Wisconsin Conference UCC was the first in the nation to pass a resolution to implement the UCC’s “*Kairos Call to Action*” (issued by the UCC Council for Climate Justice as an urgent plea to help rescue our planet from peril). “*Kairos*” is a Greek word signifying a moment when the time is right and urgent for action. The Kairos Call to Action invited congregations of the United Church of Christ to commit to a series of climate-saving actions and empowered churches to take on the crucial work of climate justice.

For more information on the project, contact the church at:

[Please add a name for the person at the church willing to answer questions or be interviewed, along with his or her phone and email address. Indicate if photos are available as well.]

For more information on the Wisconsin UCC programs go to www.wcucc.org

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