

“CREATIVITY FUNDS” Guidelines

as prepared by the Committee on Mission and Evangelism (CME)

in partnership with the Advisory Board (AB)

A POWERFUL HISTORY: The Advisory Board created this fund in 2019 shortly before COVID as a way to encourage congregations to experiment without concern for cost. The parameters, in general, were designed to foster innovation and experimentation so that congregations might strive to reach out to their communities with greater intention. Congregations were encouraged to bring an idea to a presbytery meeting and share it in less than 5 minutes, with the understanding that the presbytery would vote on their favorite idea.

At the beginning of this new fund, time, AB members were also encouraged to pledge \$10/month toward this fund as a way of supporting faithful imagination among our congregations. **Today, thanks to the gifts of AB members – and others – the fund stands at \$50K!**

Our first “Creativity Fund” presentation occurred in February 2020 at the presbytery meeting located at Celebration of Faith at Lake Blackshear. At that meeting, 3 congregations made presentations and a motion was made to support all three. 2 members of the presbytery stood and offered to fund the remaining two projects!

Congregations were guaranteed, at the time, between \$250-\$500 for a project.

None of the congregations – Tifton, New Hope, or First (Warner Robins) -- have YET completed their projects as expected due to COVID. However, they plan to provide updates to us in the near future!

Parameters for Participation:

- The church must have prior approval from their session before presenting at a presbytery meeting.
- The church may send a very brief write-up of their potential project, which would be placed in the presbytery packet prior to a Presbytery meeting, but it is not required. It will likely help their case though, if they do!
- This fund is not designed to support usual congregational activities. It is strictly to fund an outreach event in the community of the church so that relationships and connections are made in the communities in which a church is located.

- A member from the church will have up to 5 minutes to present their idea to persons attending a presbytery meeting. Presbytery commissioners will vote at that meeting on who will receive funding.
- There is \$6,000 per year available. Each church can ask for funding for their idea, between \$500 and not to exceed \$1,000.
- After the completion of the event, the congregation must submit a BRIEF final reflection to Advisory Board on the results IF they hope to receive funds in future years. Projects should be completed in the same year the funds were requested.
- Congregations may receive an additional bonus of \$250 IF they submit a final reflection within a month of completing their event. This reflection should focus on what was learned and how the congregation hopes to follow up with new connections, etc.