

**THE COMMITTEE ON EXISTING CHURCH DEVELOPMENT  
THE OFFICE OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES  
THE NORTH GEORGIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

GUIDELINES FOR GRANTS

1. The VISION of the Office of Connectional Ministries is to create and nurture relationships and connections among the local, district, conference, and general church ministries.
2. In order to fulfill this Vision, The Committee on Existing Church Development sees as its MISSION the providing of financial resources to those existing congregations that have a vision of reaching the unchurched.
3. The Committee on Existing Church Development affirms these VALUES:
  - a compelling vision that gives direction to the life of the church
  - responsible stewardship
  - careful planning
  - the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church
4. An “existing church” is understood to be any congregation within the bounds of the North Georgia Annual Conference that is not currently under the New Church Development program.
5. Assistance, not to exceed \$5,000, will be granted based on demonstrated need. Some extenuating circumstances may warrant a grant in excess of \$5,000.
6. Financial assistance is available for those situations where there is the possibility of growth; renewed, cooperative or enhanced ministry; and in emergency situations. Grants are an expression of encouragement and intended to enhance the mission and ministry of the church.
7. The Committee on Existing Church Development will review all completed applications and make recommendations to the Board of Connectional Ministries for final approval. If approved, the funds will be sent to the office of the District Superintendent to be disbursed by the District Superintendent once the applicant has certified that the project has been completed.
8. Applications must be filled out completely, have the approval of the pastor, the administrative body of the church, the District Superintendent, and follow all requirements set forth in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church.
9. The staff of the Office of Connectional Ministries is available to assist a congregation in developing its unique mission, planning for the future, defining its building needs, and making application to the Committee on Existing Church Development.