



## What is the New Church Grant Benefit Support Program?

The New Church Grant Benefit Support Program is a grant program designed to help cover the cost of benefits for pastors during the first crucial years of a new church start.

## Why New Church Benefit Support?

This program has made a significant difference in the lives of new church planters and their families. It has provided relief to young congregations with limited funds, struggling to provide fundamental benefits of health, dental and pension benefits to their pastors.

## How does the grant program work?

Applications can be obtained online at [www.ucc.org/newchurch](http://www.ucc.org/newchurch) or from Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement (CASA) by email: [kozak@ucc.org](mailto:kozak@ucc.org). Applications are accepted yearly from January through August, with a deadline of September 1.

Congregations apply for New Church Grants on behalf of their pastors through their Conference Office. **The Conference must endorse the application.**

Endorsed applications are forwarded to Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement Ministry at the National Offices. Applications are reviewed and **recommendations** are sent to the Pension Board.

**If approved**, the New Church Start grants can last for three years. The minister must qualify for enrollment in the various benefit plans, including LIDI, subject to the normal enrollment criteria of the Pension Boards.

Upon conclusion of a minister's employment, the grant will end for that pastor; however, they are eligible to continue in the benefits plan at their own or their next church's expense. Congregations receiving a grant for a pastor who leaves may reapply to continue the grant for their new pastor. Only one grant is awarded per congregation.

## How do I apply for the New Church Grant Benefit Support Program?

Contact the Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement Ministry of the United Church of Christ: 866.822.8224 ext. 3837.

Learn more at [www.pbucc.org](http://www.pbucc.org) and click on "Ministerial Assistance". Then scroll down until you see "New Church Start Benefit Support".