



How do I apply?

Complete and download your application at ctsnet.edu/rekindle.

To qualify for this program and the Impact Grant your congregation must complete an online application consisting of a brief church profile (staff, history, location, demographics, etc.), an identity statement, a description of the specific challenge you desire to address, and a description of the ministry project you desire to initiate. The application must include a budget for the Impact Grant (up to \$10,000 per grantee).

What are the eligibility requirements?

Grants will be given based on an application that provides evidence of readiness and capacity to take on the Impact Grant. Congregations that successfully define their grant project intent, goals, and present a realistic budget will receive priority consideration.

Awardees must also sign a participation agreement and agree to provide an interim report and a report upon the completion of the grant project to share successes, learnings, and to articulate their plans for continuing to benefit from the impact grant.

What other information does my church have to provide?

- Online Application
- Participation Agreement
- Non-profit tax status document
- An interim report by December 30, 2025
- A final report upon completion of the program by April 30, 2025
- Project Budget.

How much does the reKindle program cost?

There is no cost to your congregation other than travel to and from the seminary campus for the cohort gathering (you may include travel expenses in your grant budget). The program will provide housing, meals, and materials during your stay.

When is the application deadline?

All applications are due Friday, April 30th, 2024. All applications will be contacted regarding their status no later than July 1.

How much money will my church get if awarded a grant?

Congregations accepted into the program can receive up to \$10,000 in grant money. Applications must include a budget proposal to document the amount of your request.

When will I be notified if my congregation is accepted?

No later than July 1, 2024.

Is there someone to help me with the application?

Yes. Application assistance is available upon request. Please contact us.

Can any congregation apply?

Yes. We hope to receive a variety of applications from congregations representing diverse communities. Congregations that are multi-racial or represent communities of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

Can church staff or lay members apply on behalf of their congregation or only the pastor?

Yes. Pastors, church support staff, lay members or other church leadership can apply on behalf of their congregation. If your congregation is awarded a grant, your cohort must include a member of the pastoral staff or pastor, and a congregational lay leader from each congregation. One must serve as the grant project director.

Is this a virtual program?

No, but it might be. Should the COVID-19 situation create restrictions or obstacles for a campus gathering the initiative will proceed online and through virtual meetings.

Is this only for Presbyterian churches?

No. Non-Presbyterian churches are welcome to apply.

Can small churches apply?

Yes. There is no congregation size restriction to apply for the grant.

Can non-denominational churches apply?

Yes. All Christian denominations can apply for a reKindle grant. Congregations must, however, hold legal non-profit, tax-exempt status.

Does my church have to be in Georgia to apply?

No. Churches outside of Georgia are welcome to apply.

How long does the grant last?

The grant period is from July 2024 – April 30, 2025. Congregations must be able to complete their impact grant project by the published deadline.

Will we meet in person at some point?

On September 23-25, 2025, two persons (pastor or pastoral staff and lay leader) from each congregation who receives a grant will participate in a meeting of the entire cohort on the campus of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur GA (barring extended limitations due to COVID-19).

What kinds of projects can congregations use the grant money for?

Some examples of a reKindle grant projects are:

- You can explore and deepen your congregation's understanding of social and cultural trends to guide your congregation to new ministry responses and increased community engagement.

- You can guide your congregation to learn more about your immediate neighborhood, town, city, region or broader areas of concern through research and face-to-face encounters. This can lead to ministry responses or strategic changes leading to new ministries.
- You may choose to engage in a deep study of your congregation's corporate values and its theological convictions and reevaluate mission and ministry priorities in light of those values and your changing contexts.
- Another possibility is to identify areas for ministry where your congregation has its greatest passion, capacity, and sense of calling. Your congregation may then implement a new initiative for increased member ministry involvement, or expand a current one.
- If you want to focus on the inner life of your congregation you can strengthen a sense of community among your members through implementing new Christian practices, or, reclaiming traditional ones informed by a theological framework.
- More pragmatically, you may choose to critically assess your congregation's governance and leadership practices such as a vocational call process, staff development and training, compensation and personnel policies using a process of theological reflection.
- A final example is establishing and nurturing partner and network relationships with affinity organizations in your congregation's local neighborhood, town, or city to refocus and revitalize its mission and ministry response.

These are merely examples. You will determine what initiatives are most relevant to helping *your* congregation thrive.

Can my church apply for this again?

Congregations who are not awarded a grant may apply the following year. Congregations may apply for a second continuing grant if they evidence significant progress and outcomes from their initial Impact Grant. We realize that transformative change requires a long arc to sustain momentum.

What is the Lilly Endowment?

The reKindle Grant Initiative is financially supported through the Lilly Endowment. Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation based in Indianapolis. They support the causes of community development, education and religion. To learn more about this organization, visit lillyendowment.org.