

Peace UCC Jubilee Fund

Approved – March 2009

Vision of the Jubilee Fund: Peace Church members live out their Christian faith in ways that increase social and economic justice.

Mission of Jubilee Fund: The Jubilee Fund is a financial resource to enable members and friends of Peace United Church of Christ to be actively engaged in justice issues that affect the Duluth community and the broader region, nation, and world.

Priorities Issues for the Jubilee Fund:

- Ending Poverty
- Economic Justice
- Dismantling Racism
- Eliminating Hunger

Requirements for Projects Supported by the Jubilee Fund:

- Each project must have the initial support and engagement of at least 3 Peace Church members.
- Each project must be implemented in cooperation with a group or entity that is outside of Peace Church. (Examples are: CHUM, our sister congregations in the Philippines, Witness for Peace, the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial Committee or the Arrowhead Interfaith Council). Priority partners are those that are organized as a nonprofit, with a 501(c) (3) status, or have a fiscal agent that is a 501 (c) (3). Exceptions may be made by the Jubilee Fund review committee for groups that are not formally organized as nonprofits, after a review of organizational governance and financial management capacity.
- Each project should seek to educate and engage members of the congregation through activities such as: Adult Forums, presentations during worship, volunteer opportunities, special events, etc...
- All projects will be required to report back on their progress and accomplishments as part of the church's annual program report in June
- At least one grant/year will be awarded to a project initiated by Peace Church youth.
- All Jubilee fund grants need to be used within 12 months of award.
- Approximately \$15,000 will be available from the Jubilee Fund each year for 5 years. Grants are anticipated to be in the range of \$500 - \$5,000. Grants will be awarded throughout the year, as applications come in.
- The Jubilee Fund will start at the beginning of the 2009-2010 church program year, on July 1, 2009.
- All Jubilee fund expenditures will require documentation of actual expenses. Upon request by the Review Committee or Coordinating Council, applicants and partner organizations must agree to participate in a more thorough review of actual project expenses and disbursements.

Application Process

- A brief application form will be need to be completed. Questions will include:
 - Peace Church Person/Group responsible for the application and project
 - Partner organization(s)
 - Project goals and specific activities
 - Project timeframe
 - Plans for engaging Peace Church members and friends in the project or issue
 - Project budget

- Applications will be reviewed quarterly – in July, October, January, and April. Applications are due by June 30, September 30, December 31, and March 31.
- A Jubilee Fund Review Committee will be formed to review applications as they are received, and to make recommendations for approval to the Coordinating Council.
- Members of the Jubilee Fund Review Committee can be part of a group that brings forward an application, but they must recuse themselves from reviewing and making a recommendation regarding the application.
- As needed, the Review Committee may request an in-person meeting with the applicant(s) to get further information on the proposed project.
- The Review Committee will make a recommendation to the Coordinating Council.
- The Coordinating Council will vote on the proposal at their next scheduled meeting.

Examples of Uses for Jubilee Fund

1. **Supportive Housing:** Through a partnership with an affordable housing provider such as LifeHouse, The Salvation Army, or CHUM, the Peace Church congregation is able to provide both financial and volunteer support to assure permanent housing for a homeless individual or family, for up to one year.

- The financial contribution through the Jubilee Fund provides a rent subsidy for the household for up to one year. The monthly rent funds may decrease throughout the year as the household attains greater economic independence.
- The housing organization coordinates a relationship between congregational volunteers and the household, including, but not limited to: assistance with transportation, tutoring/access to educational opportunities, employment assistance, friendly visits and other appropriate relationship-building activities.
- The congregation of Peace Church increases its education on the causes of homelessness, and policy and program solutions to ending homelessness. Members of the congregation take action to express their opinions to policy-makers on ending homelessness

2. **Hunger:** Through a partnership with an organization that provides meals to people who are hungry, the Peace Church congregation is able to provide both financial and volunteer support to meet hunger needs and address policy issues that impact the number of people experiencing hunger.

- The financial contribution from the Jubilee Fund allows for the purchase of food necessary for a weekly meal at the local drop-in center.
- The partner organization coordinates a relationship for the preparation of a weekly meal by congregational volunteers that includes food preparation, socializing with meal guests, and clean-up.
- The congregation of Peace Church increases its education on the causes of hunger and learns about policy and program solutions to reducing hunger. Members of the congregation take action to express their opinions to policy makers on reducing homelessness.

3. **Dismantling Racism:** Through a partnership with Community Action, the Peace Church congregation is able to support the Anti-racism Study Dialogue Circles (ASDC) to create antiracist patterns of relationships and advocate for antiracist policies in the institutions and systems of wider society.

- The financial contribution from the Jubilee Funds pays for the training of ASDIC facilitators, provides a meal for Circle participants, and assists with participants' child care and transportation costs.
- ASDIC leaders coordinate participation in facilitator training, and participation in the Circles among Peace Church members and the broader community.
- The congregation of Peace Church increases its education on the causes and impact of racism. Members of the congregation work to create antiracist relationships and take action to advocates for institutional policies that are antiracist.

