

Fresh Expressions Grant Information

for the New Mexico Conference of the United Methodist Church

A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet part of any church. These groups are usually experienced within a shared affinity or social network. Gatherings are often small, typically meeting in homes and neighborhood gathering spots.

Fresh Expressions is a movement which cultivates new forms of church alongside existing congregations in a way which is mutually beneficial and life-giving. However, fresh expressions are not merely an outreach, ministry, or class of the existing congregation. Rather, mature fresh expressions are disciple-making communities rooted and grounded in the resurrected Christ. Fresh expressions are church.

Fresh Expression are *not*:

- A one-time, temporary, or quarterly event
- An updated version of the church's Sunday worship service
- A gathering created for church members
- An entry point to funnel people into the established congregation
- A mission "project"

Fresh Expressions *are*:

- Created for those unlikely to enter the doors of the established church (unchurched and dechurched persons)
- Contextualized within a subculture, affinity group, or specific population
- Agile, flexible, and characteristically small
- Meet regularly; at least monthly and perhaps weekly
- Connected with an established congregation
- Outside the walls and cultural traditions of the established congregation
- Created within an unchurched culture to make disciples of Jesus Christ
- Created through the process of:



Fresh Expressions Grant Application

The New Church Development Team of the New Mexico Annual Conference has established a grant to support local churches in their endeavor of starting fresh expressions. Grants up to \$500 may be awarded to support this work. Please provide the following information to the New Church Development Team by submitting it to NCD chairperson, Blossom Matthews: bmatthews@nmconfum.com

1. Names of Fresh Expressions Team Members:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

2. The United Methodist congregation(s) in which you are currently active (name, city, district):

3. Among what people group do you sense God is calling you to share life and faith?

4. How will you implement the process of listening, loving, building community, exploring discipleship and forming church?