



MINISTRY RESOURCE COMMITTEE

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2020 UPDATE

# What Is the Ministry Resource Committee? (MRC)

The MRC exists to build relationships and strengthen congregations around the shared vision of the Presbytery.

Identified function of MRC: To “connect” members from various congregations together for ministry.

How do we implement our function?

- ✚ Provide space for member fellowship, relationship & partnership building.
  - Virtual Space
  - Physical Space
- ✚ Facilitate opportunities for fellowship & relationship building.
- ✚ Provide financial resources to support ministries. (MRC Budget & Established Grants).

## Getting to Great

Step 1

**Provide Opportunities for Fellowship**

Step 2

**Build Relationships**

Step 3

**Support Partnerships in Ministry**

# Facilitating Fellowship & Relationship Building

1. At the end of each year (December), every church in the presbytery will be asked to designate 2 members from their congregation to serve as MRC “Ambassadors”. These Ambassadors would not have to be session members or the clerk, but preferably “pew” members who know what’s going on in all areas of the church and likes to share. (See page 3 for Ambassador job description)

2. MRC Connectors & MRC Cluster Ambassadors will meet quarterly during the year (February, May, August, October). Meetings can occur virtually or in-person.

A. First cluster meeting (February) would include all churches within the cluster and would be an opportunity to meet each other, share the goal of cluster meetings and how they are designed to work.

B. Subsequent meetings (May, August, October) would be with MRC Cluster Connectors and the churches from their assigned geographical cluster groups. These meetings would be for community building and information sharing. View these as opportunities for Connectors to get to know their churches better and for churches to get to know each other. Topics of meeting discussion will vary based upon actual clusters needs and interest.

C. In person meetings of the cluster Ambassadors will be encouraged when it is safely possible. Soup & sandwich meetings, coffee get-togethers, etc. Anything that will bring the Ambassadors together for fellowship and relationship building. It is our goals to eventually make these open meetings where anyone from the congregation is invited to attend and participate.

D. Connectors are only facilitators to convene meetings and to share information from MRC and the presbytery. Our job is limited to helping to create “cluster communities” through the develop of relationships that will encourage the on-going sharing of ministry opportunities between churches and helping them to make, when they share similarities in interest, connections that might encourage the development of ministry partnerships.

## Making the Connection

-  MRC is relational, but the relationships that we are seeking to create must be between churches.
-  MRC Connectors function to connect churches to each other for fellowship and relationship building that can open the door to opportunities for ministry partnerships.
-  MRC is not a “top down” management committee. We are a resource to bring people together, to share information and to provide possible funding assistance. We do not assess what’s right or wrong for any church or group of churches, we will not determine what churches need and we will not mandate what churches should do.
-  MRC is not designed or funded to plan, develop, or implement ministries, programs or events, for the Presbytery, on behalf of our churches. These things should be the function of the ministry partnerships that grow from the fellowship and relationships that we build in our cluster groups.

# **MRC Ambassador**

## **Job Description**

- ✚ Someone who has their finger on the “pulse” of the congregation.
- ✚ Someone who is interested to hear about the happenings at nearby churches in the Presbytery and be eager to share those happenings with their session and congregation in efforts to build and nurture relationships with those churches.
- ✚ Someone who is willing to create partnership for, facilitate, initiate, or enhance shared ministry with partner churches.
- ✚ Someone who values using their gifts of “time and talent” on a quarterly basis to help connect your congregation with other churches in your designated presbytery cluster group.

## **MRC GRANTS/OPERATING BUDGET**

### **COVID-19 Emergency Assistance**

MRC was blessed to be able to provide \$160,000 from the Building Healthy Churches Fund to the Administrative Unit of the Presbytery for the provision of up to \$5,000 COVID-19 Emergency Grants. These grants were limited in scope to providing financial assistance for salary continuation and on-going church related operating expenses (ie., utilities, insurance, etc) only.

- ✚ 31 churches received assistance.
- ✚ \$20,000 remains in this account

### **Pharr Grant**

- ✚ Created in 2020 as the result of a bequests from the Pharr family (Sardis Presbyterian) to the Presbytery. A portion of those funds were designated to assist with the developing needs of our congregations related to COVID-19 and the continuation of ministry and worship in our new found online/virtual environment.
- ✚ Grants have been issued for up to \$2500.
- ✚ To date we have distributed \$61,987.00 to 27 congregations.
- ✚ We currently have \$86,300 remaining from the bequests. The MRC grants sub-committee will be making recommendations for how best to utilize these remaining funds in 2021. Funds could be reallocated to other grants.

## **Hamilton Grant**

- ✚ \$4,200 is allocated yearly to this grant from the interest on an endowment. These grant funds are specifically dedicated for churches with a membership of 200 or less. Funds are provided to support projects that smaller churches are not able to include in their operating budget.
- ✚ Grants up to \$1,000 are provided.
- ✚ To date we have provided 2 Hamilton Grants totaling \$2,000.
- ✚ If your church meets the above criteria and has a need, there are still funds available for 2020.

## **MRC Operating Budget**

- ✚ \$15,000 was allocated to MRC for the fiscal year of 2020.
- ✚ MRC utilizes its operating budget to fund 3 Presbytery Grants.
  - Shared Ministry Grants
  - New & Expanding Initiative Grants
  - Training, Workshop & Coaching Grants

## **Shared Ministry Grant**

- ✚ Provides funds for 2 or more churches that are partnering together in mission. \$6,000 of MRC's budget was allocated to this grant for 2020.
- ✚ Grants of up to \$5,000.
- ✚ This year we have provided 1 Shared Ministry Grant in the amount of \$4,800 to support a new youth ministry initiative "Mission Scholars" which has a shared investment from 6 of our congregations.

## **New & Expanding Initiative Grant**

- ✚ Established for churches taking on completely new ministry initiatives or responding to changing ministry contexts by expanding existing ministry initiatives. \$6,000 of MRC's budget was allocated to this grant for 2020.
- ✚ Grants are offered for up to \$2,500 per submission.
- ✚ To date, no New & Expanding Initiative Grants have been awarded for this year.

## Training, Workshop & Coaching Grant

- ✚ Grant funds to provide financial assistance to Pastors, Sessions and Musicians with the costs associated with training, workshops and professional coaching. \$3,000 of the MRC budget was allocated for 2020.
- ✚ Grants are available for up to \$1,000 per requests.
- ✚ To date, we have issued 1 Training, Workshop Coaching grant for 2020.

## Transformation Grant New Worshipping Community Grant

- ✚ There is currently \$203,000 in the Building Healthy Churches Fund that support these two grants.

### Transformation grant

- ✚ Designed for any congregation that is willing to engage in significant transformation. Funds are distributed from the Presbytery's Building Healthy Churches Fund
- ✚ The amount of each grant is specific to the measures and methods of transformation being undertaken.
- ✚ We currently have 1 transformation grant requests pending.

### New Worshipping Community Grant

- ✚ Designed to help foster new church communities within the Presbytery. Funds are also distributed from the Presbytery's Building Healthy Churches Fund
- ✚ We have not had any requests for New Worshipping Community Grant in the last 3 years.

- ✚ **The Transformation and the New Worshipping Community grants are currently under review** by the MRC grants sub-committee. These grants may be reimagined and redesigned to better reflect the mission of being a Matthew 25 Presbytery. More information to come in early 2021.

## **COVID PPE DISTRIBUTION**

Thanks to a donation from the Department of Health and Human Services, MRC was able to provide PPE supplies (hand sanitizer, gloves, & masks) to 33 of our churches. Extra supplies (about 60 cases of hand sanitizers) were donated to several local schools.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ministry Resource Committee