

## **We have a tight budget. How can we faithfully fund this investment?**

When we are following Christ, the resources necessary for our faithful work are made available. As Jesus said: *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”* Matthew 7:7-8 NIV. The resources necessary to engage younger adults include:

- Constant, urgent prayer for the younger people in our community
- Commitment of time and effort by the pastor and a group of committed lay persons
- Space and facility resources
- Funding for the training and coaching
- Open hearts and minds to the calling, leadership, and gifts of the younger people in our community

## **Raising Money**

1. Begin by gathering a group of people together to pray for this opportunity.
2. Look at the church budget to see if there are funds that could be applied to this work.
  - a. Reserve funds
  - b. Programming funds
  - c. Continuing education funds
  - d. New initiative funds
3. Seek approval from the Church Council for participating and for funding.
  - a. Preview the work with key leaders – both elected and informal leaders.
  - b. Put your request in writing and share it ahead of time with the council (*see sample below*).
  - c. Identify where money might come from either by reducing other expenses, spending reserves or savings, or by increasing income in some specific way.
  - d. Identify the spiritual and temporal return on investment that is possible.
4. Boldly ask for individual second-mile contributions.
  - a. Immerse your request in prayer: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”* Philippians 4:6 NIV
  - b. The one who asks should also be willing to contribute herself or himself.
  - c. Set the environment for the request – invite a group of people to dinner, meet with an existing class or group, or call a special meeting.
  - d. Put the request in writing to provide clarity. Be specific about what you are asking each person to consider doing.

*One small church wanted to raise the entire amount to invest in this process. A key lay leader heard the presentation, let folks think about it for a few minutes and said, “This is important for us to do and important for us to invest in. I know we don’t have any money budgeted for it, so I’ll put up the first \$100. Is there anyone else who believes this is important enough to invest in?” Within ten minutes the group had put together \$1,500 through individual commitments. Not only that, but the entire group joined the team to give time and effort to the work as well.*
5. Access assistance from the District or [Conference](#).

## **[SAMPLE] Resolution of Support for Engaging Younger Adults in Our Community**

In North Carolina only 1 out of 20 people under the age of 35 are in worship in any given week. Even in our community, the proportion of young people who know and follow Jesus and who participate actively in church is far too small.

Our church has been invited to participate in a new initiative to build our capacity to engage younger adults in a life of discipleship and involvement in our United Methodist Church. This initiative is based on sound research and Biblical principles. It follows the example of principle and behavior that has led hundreds of young adults to become active in United Methodist Churches. It seeks to dramatically expand the number of clergy and lay leaders who are paving a way for young adults into a life of faith, following the call of God, living out their spiritual gifts, and becoming wholesome, passionate leaders in the church and community.

We want to be a part of this initiative.

We ask the Church Council to endorse this effort by approving this resolution and by committing themselves to:

- Constant, urgent prayer for the younger people in our community
- Support for a commitment of time and effort by the pastor and a group of committed lay persons
- Openness to the use of our church's space and facility resources for new ministries that younger people will start and lead
- Funding for the year of training and coaching
- Open hearts, open minds, and fervent support for the calling, leadership, and gifts of the younger people in our community, even ones we haven't yet met.

The cost of the year-long commitment of training and coaching for our local church team is \$1,550.

We have already obtained \$X,XXX through using budgeted funds, receiving second-mile gifts from individuals in the church, and utilizing the NC Conference and The Duke Endowment support for this project for our church (*see below to calculate the investment amount from the NC Conference and The Duke Endowment*).

The remaining amount needing approval by the Council is \$X,XXX.

We believe this effort will be blessed by Christ and lead to dozens of younger people becoming involved in a life of discipleship and in the life of the church. Our church will be healthier, stronger, and in better condition financially as well because of their presence with us.

## **How much are The Duke Endowment and the North Carolina Conference investing in our church's participation?**

Total Annual Cost: \$1,550 per church

- Duke Endowment eligible churches with **less than 50 in Average Worship Attendance** are supported with an investment of \$1,300 from The Duke Endowment and North Carolina Conference.
- Duke Endowment eligible churches with **51-100 in Average Worship Attendance** are supported with an investment of \$1,200 from The Duke Endowment and North Carolina Conference.
- Duke Endowment eligible churches with **101-200 in Average Worship Attendance** are supported with an investment of \$1,050 from The Duke Endowment and North Carolina Conference.
- Duke Endowment eligible churches with **over 201 in Average Worship Attendance** are supported with an investment of \$900 from The Duke Endowment and North Carolina Conference.

**Churches that are not eligible for a Duke Endowment grant are eligible for a \$350 investment from the NC Conference.**