



Draft 2013-14:

## New Faith Community *New Seeds Plant* Policy for Grant Processing

Upper New York Annual Conference  
324 University Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Syracuse, NY 13210

**Purpose:** To provide an evolving and flexible way to consider and resource high potential new faith community plants.

### Application Process:

1. Mini-grant proposals for New Seeds funds of \$5000 or less will be considered by the New Faith Communities Grant Processing Team (GPT) at meetings (phone, e-mail or face-to-face) throughout the year. Funds for mini-grants will be available within 30 days of team approval. To be considered, your application for New Seeds Funding must be completed, signed by lead planter and his/her District Superintendent and returned to the office of the Director of New Faith Communities no later than 30 days prior to next scheduled (GPT) meeting.
2. Substantial grant-proposals for New Seeds funds in excess of \$5000 will be considered twice a year. Proposals in excess of \$5000 are due February 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. Funds for these grants will be available beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. To be considered, your application for New Seeds Funding must be completed, signed by lead planter and his/her District Superintendent and returned to the office of the Director of New Faith Communities by February 1<sup>st</sup> or September 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after these dates will be considered six months later.
3. Applications will be reviewed and considered by the New Faith Community Grant Processing Team. The Grant Processing Team may schedule an interview with lead planter and her/his team members for further exploration, conversation and follow-up questions. These conversations could be via phone, video chat, or in person. Additional information may also be requested in writing.

4. Decisions will be communicated briefly by e-mail immediately following the meeting of the Grant Processing Team, and then a more detailed follow-up letter will follow. Payment plans will be negotiated at that time, and will be available twice a year, quarterly, or monthly.
5. Covenant agreements, outlining payment plans and mutual expectations (including evaluation and reporting expectations), will be signed by New Faith Communities Grant Processing Team and the leadership of the planting team.
6. Funds will be disbursed by the conference treasurer according to conference policies, and in alignment with the negotiated covenant.
7. All applications are for a single year of funding. In other words, grants are given one year at a time. Any subsequent grants will be considered on the basis of a new application in following years, and clear reporting on progress meeting intended goals is expected. The intention of the Upper NY Conference is to provide sufficient funding to give new faith communities every opportunity to thrive. However, our goal is for every faith community to be self-sustaining as soon as possible. Our funds are limited, and our intention is to plant 100 new faith communities in the next few years. Because of this, each application should clearly delineate plans for financial sustainability. Your application will be stronger if the Grant Processing Team sees that you have been gathering other partners and other funding sources!
8. Depending on the strategy used in planting, different funding patterns can be expected. For instance, a team with a clear vision, strategy and a strong launch team already in place might apply for a larger sum in year one, and then hope for decreasing grant support in subsequent years... as long as goals are being met, disciples are being made, and growth is seen. Other strategies might call for a small grant in the first year while a vision is taking shape and a leadership team is grown, and then a larger grant in year two when a launch is planned.
9. Priority will be given to applications for funding that support plans that align well with the core values of our Annual Conference. These can be found on the following page (or, attached document entitled "Marks of Every New Faith Community in Upper New York Conference.")

## Marks of Every New Faith Community

### In Upper New York Conference

In the Upper NY Conference, we are seeking to plant 100 new faith communities over the next 5-6 years. This document seeks clarity about the traits of the faith communities we intend to create. We anticipate all sizes and types of new faith communities popping up around the state! We hope to plant new faith communities targeting every generation and cultural group in our area. These goals will necessitate the use of a variety of strategies and approaches. But, there are a number of core values and principles that will mark all of these plants... our DNA across the board! These marks are:

1. **Radical Hospitality:** Diverse people are invited and welcomed without prejudice or judgment. Every person is valued for the unique spiritual gifts, life experience and resources they bring.
2. **Discipleship Focus:** Every person related to the faith community is encouraged to follow Christ by learning his ways, and generously using their time, gifts and resources to be God's love with their neighbors in the places they live, work and play.
3. **Every Person in a Small Group:** The primary growth points for developing disciples are in small groups... where true community is fostered, scriptures are engaged, God is worshipped, faith is discussed, concerns and dreams are shared, mutual prayers are offered, mission projects are embraced, and people are routinely invited to follow Jesus Christ, in an atmosphere where it is safe to ask any question, explore any thought, express any doubt.
4. **Team-based Leadership:** Individual leaders are constantly building and strengthening teams to do the work of the new faith community, so that the work is spread broadly, and none of it is entirely dependent on any individual person.
5. **Generosity:** People are offered regular opportunities to give their money to support meaningful missions that transform the lives of people in their neighborhoods and world... including the connectional ministries of the UM church. Each Faith Community practices giving away what it has from the beginning! What would happen if every New Faith Community voluntarily gave a percentage of their income to Conference ministry shares, instead of waiting to be "billed"?
6. **Multiplication:** Every person involved with the new faith community invites friends, co-workers and neighbors to participate; AND, every leader is focused on developing other leaders and giving away what they do; AND, every small group is committed to sharing it's strength in order to start other small groups.
7. **Mission and Ministry:** Every person and group is engaged in mission, designed to transform the lives of neighbors and neighborhoods, in partnership with others in the community.

New Faith Communities may or may not have large group worship experiences. New Faith Communities may or may not ever own property and buildings. New Faith Communities may use any music, worship or liturgical style that helps their people to encounter and worship God. New Faith Communities will be asked to report statistics based on each of the items listed above... how many people are welcomed and become active, consistent participants? How many people are in small groups, and seeking to follow Jesus? What teams have been developed to carry aspects of the work, and how many are in each? How much money has been given by the people, and then has been given away? How many new leaders are being developed?

# Application for New Seeds Funding (v. 6.12)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name of proposed New Faith Community:

Physical location:

District:

Sponsoring/Parent Congregation (if applicable):

Pastor:

Phone: (    )                      E-mail:

Lead Planter (if different from above):

Phone: (    )                      E-mail:

Request for Funding Application Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ leader \_\_\_\_\_ team member

Please attach additional sheets with answers to following questions. Please number your responses with corresponding question number. **Please limit each response to 100 words or less.**

## Vision, Strategy, Goals and Plans

1. Vision: What is your vision for this ministry "in a nutshell?"
2. Discernment and Research: How have you and your team arrived at this vision? How have you discerned God's leading? What research data and consultations shape your vision? In what ways have you listened to and understood your context?
3. Target population: Who are you trying to reach? What input have you had from the community or constituency you hope to serve? What leads you to believe they might be receptive? What needs do these people have that God is calling you to meet?
4. Strategy: What strategy guides your approach? Please provide any specific goals making up this proposal and your plan to reach them. Please link goals and plans with a specific time frame... and benchmarks.
5. Disciple-Making: Given Plentiful Harvest's focus on increasing our capacity to make disciples, what is your vision and plan for disciple-making?

## Leadership and Team

6. Provide an assessment of the lead planter's gifts, skills, experience, passion and evidence of fruitfulness as it relates to proposal?
7. Please identify the various teams you are developing to support the vision: (list and identify purpose of each, and how many persons are already committed to each).
8. Please identify any partnerships (with groups, individuals, etc) you have established in your community and within the Conference, which share your vision and support you and your work.
9. Please identify the prayer team interceding on behalf of this plant and describe its practice of prayer.
10. Please identify any peer networks the leaders are working with, and learning from.
11. What is your plan to apprentice new leadership to resource this plant and future plants?
12. Does your leader have a coach? And if not, what is the plan for engaging one?

## Financial Resources

13. Please provide your financial plan for this plant. Include all estimated expenses and other anticipated income including UNY Conference request. Note the status of funding from each identified source. Please briefly outline your expected financial needs and your financial plan for three budget years.
14. What is your plan to create a sustainable ministry?
15. If your plant is sponsored by an existing congregation, what is the congregation's history of shared ministry support? What is anticipated during planting?

## Agreements:

As part of the Covenant between the Conference and the new faith community plant, it is understood:

- funding grants are normal for one year
- all planters must be in an approved coaching relationship, be accountable to all appropriate supervisory relationships, and maintain a discipline of spiritual, mental, emotional, relational and physical practices which lead to health
- all planters will be in a planter peer group for support and mutual learning
- sponsoring congregations will fully honor their shared ministry obligations
- leadership of new faith community plants will be available to assist other new faith community plants with prayer, insight and support.

