CBF Peer Learning Groups

Time -Saving Tips for the PLG Grant application process

Before you start:

1. Make sure you can articulate the purpose of your group.
2. Describe the group's goals and objectives.
3. Describe the proposed use of funding.
4. Gather your fiscal agent information (if funded, checks will be made payable to convener's church or another PLG member's church).
5. Each group must have at least five group members
6. Gather group member information as follows:
   a. Name
   b. Church or Organization
   c. Title
   d. Address
   e. Email

Note: It would be helpful to gather the group member information before filling out the grant application. If you gather all the information ahead of time, the actual grant completion process should only take 15-20 minutes.

Sample Grant 1

The following are grants that have been approved for funding.

Group Purpose:

This group is intended for children's ministers in the ATL, Rome, and Greenville, SC areas. We meet to support one another in our ministry areas and to work together to develop programs and resources for our churches and families.

Group Goals, Objectives, Activities:

1. To have a network of other children's ministers to rely on for support and fellowship.
2. To meet annually for a retreat, during which we will create a resource for our areas of ministry. For example: in 2019, we created a "church on the go" resource for families to use when they cannot be at church. This resource provides talking points for families in the areas of scripture, service/mission projects, calendar of the church year, and life events (bullying, death of a pet, self-esteem, etc.)
3. When we gather in person, we share a meal and check in with each other. We try to meet in December and in the late spring for just a time of fellowship.
4. The months we cannot gather in person, we meet via Zoom. These meetings usually have a focus (how to keep 5th and 6th graders engaged, how to effectively recruit volunteers, how to survive VBS, etc). We also try to read 2 books a year, one that is self-development focused (we read "The Road Back to You" last year) and one that is ministry focused (last year, we read Wonder and came up with some discussion questions to use for a book club with older children).

Proposed use of Funding:

The funds help pay for our annual retreat, our annual Zoom membership, for books when we read them, and to cover the cost of lunch or meals when we are together.

Sample Grant 2

Group Purpose:

Our Peer Learning Group focuses on support, continuing education and discussion. We seek to offer a place of community, which is safe and free from judgment. Together we face the challenges of Christian ministry on a church staff including, but not limited to staff relationships and cohesiveness, relationships with parishioners, denominational issues, family relationships, continuing education, and self-care. We also seek to provide a forum for open discussion about current events and culture as they relate to ministry in the 21st century. We engage in dialogue about not only the tensions between church and culture but also the connection points as well.

Group Goals, Objectives, Activities:

- September 18- Renewing friendship and sharing concerns and stories.
- October 23- Ka'thy Chappell - Entrepreneurial Leadership
- December 11- Holiday Luncheon- Canceled because of health problems
- January 22- Presentation of D. Min preliminary project, A Taste of Fasting reclaiming the practice of fasting in the Baptist tradition during the season of Lent; rescheduled Holiday Luncheon
- February 22- Presentation of masters work on Master of Science in Church Management
- March 25- Dr. Jeff Roberts Pastor - Developing lay leaders
- April 22-Canoeing the Mountains. Tod Bolsinger
- May 27- Inspired by Rachel Held Evans
- June -Attend the CBF Gathering
- July -Going to the Movies
- August -No Meeting

Proposed use of Funding:

- Honorariums- $100
- Books-$300
- Luncheons- $100

Sample Grant 3

Group Purpose:

To build bridges of love and friendship between pastors and across racial lines. To learn more about the history, impact and current reality of racism in the religious community we share. To explore new ways we might unite an historically fractured Christian community in ways that respects and loves everyone.

Group Goals, Objectives, Activities:

Book discussions, workshops, and retreat days.

Proposed use of Funding:

Purchase books, workshop and retreat fees. Recruitment of new members.