

New Castle Presbytery Ignite Team
Grants for Endorsement September 17, 2019

Background Information: On September 7, 2019, The Ignite Team held a Combustion Chamber, where five grant applicants had an opportunity to offer a five-minute presentation about their project, as well as a twenty-five minute time with the Ignite Team for questions and answers about their proposal. The results of the Combustion Chamber were as follows. One of the grants presented that day received an answer of “not yet”, and is in conversation with the Ignite Team and other advisors about ways to improve their application. Another of the grants presented at the Combustion Chamber requested funds under the \$20,000 threshold, so while Ignite requested that they present at the Combustion Chamber for clarification about their application, their total grant amount did not require presbytery endorsement. The Ignite Team is recommending the other three projects, described below, be endorsed by New Castle Presbytery to be fully funded. This action requires endorsement by the members of New Castle Presbytery, as they are all requesting funds over \$20,000. Each of these projects will have short presentation and time for questions from the floor of Presbytery at the meeting on September 17, 2019. The Ignite Team hopes that the members of New Castle Presbytery will be excited about how the Holy Spirit is moving and working in these projects and will enthusiastically endorse them.

Project Name: The PEERS Project

Church Name: Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church

Non-profit Partner: Peace By Piece Inc. a 501(c) 3 <https://www.peersmc.org/>

Project Description: This grant applications proposes that members and friends of Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church pair with the clients of The Refuge, many of whom have been recently incarcerated, sharing skills, gifts, stories and worship, that the lives of all may be enriched. This proposal is four-fold, and will include the following four aspects.

- 1) *Worship:* Per request of residents of The Refuge, the members and pastors of Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church will work together to provide monthly worship services for the men living in the Refuge, as well as the women living at a sister site, also sponsored by Piece by Peace.
- 2) *Gardening:* One of the places where the skills and gifts of members and friends of Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church and the needs of the residents of The Refuge intersect is in gardening. Residents of the Refuge will partner with members and friends of LBPC, planting and maintaining gardens on the site of the Refuge.
- 3) *Computer Literacy:* Another place where the needs of the community at the Refuge and the skills of the members and friends of LBPC intersect is around Computer Literacy. This grant will provide some equipment and the time and space for the members of LBPC to work with residents of the Refuge to help with skills such as job searching, creating quality

documents and spreadsheets, and finding tax forms and other information in an efficient way.

- 4) *Etiquette*: In conversation with the executive director of Piece by Peace, LBPC learned that one of the struggles that many of their residents have is knowing how to behave appropriately in social situations, especially professional situations. Members and friends of LBPC will work with these residents, providing mock interviews and other social etiquette training.

Balcony Two issues this grant proposal addresses:

- This grant strives *to alleviate the root causes of poverty* by providing both skill training and confidence in the residents of The Refuge, allowing them to change their narrative into a healthier narrative
- This grant seeks *justice and power for the disenfranchised*. This grant provides the residents of the Refuge ways to learn practical new skills that translate easily into the world they will encounter after they leave The Refuge.
- This grant *develops new initiatives for church transformation* in that it breaks the church out of the walls of its building, requiring members and friends of LBPC to share experiences with the recently incarcerated.

Matthew 25 needs that this grant proposal addresses:

- This grant addresses *servicing the imprisoned and formerly imprisoned*, working with the men (and women) in ways that give them both practical hands on skills and those moments of conversation and training.

Additional Information

- Because of the nature of some of the projects, such as the garden project, this partnership will be rolled out a little at a time, allowing the momentum and enthusiasm to build with each new opportunity.
- Although the hope is that the whole church at LBPC, as well as the larger community will catch the enthusiasm, it was estimated that 8-12 volunteers would be able to make this proposal a reality.
- Full budget detail for this project is available by request.
- This grant application was inspired by the SPARK Grant, which initially paired Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church and Piece by Peace together.

Amount of Funding Recommended by the Ignite Team: \$35,000

Project Name: *Community Café*

Church Name: Community Presbyterian Church

Non-profit, church, and other Partners:

Life Worth Living Church <https://lifeworthlivingchurch.com/>

Fatherhood and Family Coalition <http://www.dfcdads.org/>

The Life Center- Wilmington, DE

Pnuema Capital Group –Newark, DE

Project Description: This grant application is a proposal to continue to fund the Community Café at Community Presbyterian Church: a place for community building, education, emotional and relational healing and fellowship. The Café consists of three main components.

1) *Community Café Gathering Space:* At the core is a “Starbucks” style safe space in which congregants and community members can come to experience a welcoming, inclusive, caring environment staffed with trained CPC members ready to minister to people and able to serve them coffee and other food.

2) *Comprehensive Programs:* These are full-featured programs that tackle some of the most pressing needs in our community. Community Presbyterian Church wants to start by expanding on our work with fathers and boys by continuing to implement the proven Project Manhood™ church-based ministry that is being used by churches around the country. It offers manhood training sessions, mentoring, and entrepreneurship training after which boys plan and operate an actual entrepreneurial project. Parent training is also a component. Based on the successful first year with the boys, the hope is to add a similar ministry to girls called Girls Who T.H.R.I.V.E. (Talented, Healthy, Resilient, Intelligent, Virtuous, Entrepreneurs). In addition to the weekly sessions with the girls, to cement and further clarify and celebrate the girls’ talents, they will each develop a creative written and visual piece on themselves to be featured in the Delaware-based Fall iMatter magazine.

3) *Workshops and Other Events:* CPC has been implementing a variety of focused programs and ministries such as leadership training, financial stewardship, VBS, discipleship classes, health and wellness, and other events. These are all designed to make the Community Café a place for connecting the message of Christ’s love to the needs of the local community that our church seeks to serve. The Café will embody our core values, which include radical hospitality, discipleship, social justice, real empowerment, and promoting healthy families.

Balcony Two issues this grant proposal addresses:

- This grant strives to *alleviate root causes of poverty*, thru offering spaces for authentic community and education for youth, families, and members of the community to help them to learn better ways to communicate and be in relationships.

- This project seeks *justice and power for the disenfranchised*. This grant works to provide spaces for community and learning for all, breaking the less healthy narratives that are so easily internalized when facing cycles of poverty and childhood trauma as many who participate in Café events are.
- This project helps to continue a project that is *an initiative for church transformation*. This application mentioned that this is a chance for the church to return to a role it had in previous years, a place where the faithful community and the surrounding community joined together to laugh, cry, learn, and be in fellowship with one another.

Matthew 25 needs that this grant proposal addresses:

- This project serves *the destitute, the hungry and the thirsty*, both providing meals for those who participate in programs at this space and working to serve those community and church members and friends who hunger for a community that looks and feels differently than the way the news portrays it.

Additional Information

- This is a continuation of the program that was started in 2018, the additional funding this year will allow changes to be made to the space so that they will be able accommodate programs for both girls and boys.
- The funds this year will also be used to find ways for this space to host more events, programs and classes to intersect the church and larger community.
- Information about curriculum used for the Project Manhood classes as well as the proposed Girls Who THRIVE program are available upon request.
- Full budget detail is available by request.

Amount of Funding Recommended by the Ignite Team: \$53,212

Project Name: *Expansion of the YES Program*

Church Name: Elkton Presbyterian Church

Partner: Youth Empowerment Source

<https://www.youthempowermentsource.org/>

Project Description: This grant application strives to continue and deepen the partnership between Elkton Presbyterian Church and their non-profit partner Youth Empowerment Source. Members of Elkton Presbyterian church assist in the efforts of the YES program and are establishing relationships with the young people in the Legacy program. Members of Elkton Presbyterian walk beside the young people in the program, who are between the ages of 16 and 24. These young people need assistance in areas such as tutoring for GED, job readiness training, financial literacy and other functional skills. These young people also need to know that the community that they live in cares about them. Elkton Presbyterian Church has formed a YES Ignition Team, made up of members who volunteer in many ways such as:

- Preparing and serving meals 2x's a month when students are in classes. The Ignition Team are considering additional meal preparation
- Sharing conversations, meals, and fellowship with the young people
- Coordinating and donating to the clothing closet for youth to obtain work appropriate clothing
- Tutoring students working toward their GED
- Inviting young people to functions at EPC
- Celebrating the students' accomplishments

Over the past year, youth involved in the programming at YES has expanded from 22 to over 40, offering new and exciting ways for members of EPC to serve, fellowship, and walk alongside the youth involved in YES and Legacy Youth.

These monies will also be used to provide the members of EPC cultural competency training so that they can better relate to the students that they are serving.

Balcony Two issues this grant proposal addresses:

- This project works to *alleviate the root causes of poverty* by giving educational opportunities to those for whom the traditional high school program did not work. It also gives the students involved in the programs a chance to form healthy relationship with a Christian community.
- This project works *to seek justice and power for the disenfranchised*, with educational programs, interview preparation and providing wardrobe for job interviews, allowing the young people to feel confident as they move toward success.
- This project *offers new initiatives for church transformation*, as it challenges the church from being transactional and toward being more relational, making spaces for conversation and cooperation between the youth and members of EPC.

Matthew 25 needs that this grant proposal addresses:

- This project addresses the *needs of the destitute* (or those who are in danger of becoming destitute) with opportunities for education and empowerment.

Additional Information

- This is a continuation of a grant given in 2018. This year's grant will allow for continuing growth and provide quality experiences for the additional number of youth involved.
- EPC also provides the physical space for the cultural competencies training and some of the other services YES offers.
- Measurable outcomes of number of students involved, number of volunteer hours provided by tutors, etc is available by request.

Amount of Funding Recommended by the Ignite Team: \$22,000