



April 5, 2018

Dear Clerk of Session and Pastor:

The Ignite team (formed by the Presbytery through Balcony II to encourage and support the missional ministry of each of its congregations) announces the **Spark Missional Ministry Grants**, a one-time grant of \$5000 for each and every congregation and new worshipping community in our Presbytery.

This manna is intended to feed your fire for ministry that is **relational, contextual** and **bold**.

We hope to see new partnerships emerge, ministries brought into being that before seemed out of reach or because of some obstacle just couldn't get off the ground. We hope to hear about prophetic, sacrificial, risky investment in serving the least of these in your community, in whatever way your congregation's sense of call leads them to serve.

The checks are arriving as Eastertide sweeps through our churches. Shortly after Pentecost, we'll be asking you to let us know what you plan to do with your Spark.

The Spark Missional Ministry Grants are a one-time gift to the congregations of New Castle Presbytery given with the intention that they:

- spark new and expanding ministry
- embolden and inspire congregations to try something new and build partnerships with other congregations, service agencies, denominations, and visionaries
- encourage congregations to engage in discernment of their call and of the needs present in their community

This initial Spark grant is not intended to shore up a gap in the budget, pay existing staff, or to make building improvements.

The Ignite Team plans to have the funding process for 2018 grants available at the May meeting of New Castle Presbytery. It is expected that for 2018 Ignite funds priority will be given to applications that build upon the mission/ministry carried out by the Spark grant. So consider how this \$5000 could be used to start to build the fire and get ready to apply for an Ignite grant to fan the flames.

You have received the grant, now please take some time to discern, to build a team and to gather your partners. Wait on the Spirit and as Pentecost descends upon your church, let yourselves go where it leads! Take the grace and gifts that you've been given into the world in Christ's name so that your community might reflect God's peace, hope and justice in new and powerful ways!

With great gratitude and excitement to share ministry with you,

*The Ignite Team of New Castle Presbytery*

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