



March 19, 2019

Hello Pastor/Clerk of Session!

Invitations to Partnership have already begun to appear in the Ignite inbox and we've heard from many of you with questions as you are formulating your plans for extending an invitation to the Presbytery through Ignite. Many of those questions have centered around how Ignite will respond to partnership invitations seeking support for our historic mission partners - those community organizations and 501(c)(3)s that have for many years been in relationship to the congregations of New Castle Presbytery and received funding through the Speer Trust, West Legacy Trust or Mission Development Unit.

We wanted to offer some clarity around these questions for the benefit of every church, even if they are not currently preparing to extend an invitation to Ignite. Since these agencies/groups cannot submit a grant to the Presbytery directly, our congregations are the access point and we wanted each congregation to have the information they need to respond to these requests. Please reach out to your community partners and let them know about Ignite and our Presbytery's new way of funding missional ministry.

Attached are the most common inquiries we're receiving at [ignite@ncpresbytery.org](mailto:ignite@ncpresbytery.org). We hope this will be helpful to you. This process is new and we're all "building the plane as it flies" so don't hesitate to reach out to Ignite. And please hold us in prayer as we do you and each of the Presbytery's congregations.

Yours faithfully,

The Ignite Team

E-mail: [IGNITE@ncpresbytery.org](mailto:IGNITE@ncpresbytery.org)

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1102 W. Church Road, Newark, DE 19711  
302.366.0595 (Office) • 302.366.0714 (Fax) • [www.ncpresbytery.org](http://www.ncpresbytery.org)



## **COMMON GRANT INQUIRIES**



### **Can a community group submit an Invitation to Partnership to Ignite?**

Invitations to Partnership must be submitted by one or more of the congregations of New Castle Presbytery, usually in partnership with one or more organizations.

### **What does it mean for a congregation to be in partnership with a community group/agency and submit an Invitation to Partnership on their behalf?**

Ignite has been charged with utilizing the funding entrusted to it in order to transform congregations through their engagement with missional ministry. In other words, collaboration and relationship, that goes beyond writing checks or letters is what we hope to see. How does this ministry engage the partners and help all of them more faithfully carry out Christ's ministry? It's not the number of partners, it's the quality of the partnership. So tell us in the Invitation how this partnership will not only serve the community but how it will deepen the commitment to mission and the spiritual life of your church and its members. What is the hands-on, in kind, communal and personal commitment made by your congregation and its members to sustain this partnership? Beyond saying, "We support this mission partner/community agency and think it's a good idea," how are leaders and members of the partner churches connected to and engaged with the work of that mission partner/community agency? That's what you want to be sure to tell us about.

### **Can a congregation be part of more than one Invitation to Partnership?**

Yes! Please! Ignite sees this as an indication of a church that is heavily involved in the needs of its community, a church whose understanding of itself is already missional. Though they may not use that word! And especially as we consider the historic partnerships between churches and local agencies, this awareness will inform Ignite's approach to these Invitations.

**Does it hurt an Invitation's chances if it is the second or third one from a particular congregation?** No, there is not a penalty for being very actively engaged in the community. A congregation cannot be "too missional". A congregation may choose to be the lead on a grant in support of a local agency and be part of a group of partners for another agency. Or a congregation might extend an Invitation on behalf of a community group and then submit another Invitation for a mission effort whose initiative comes from within the congregation. In either case, all Invitations to Partnership which Ignite receives will be considered on an equal playing field. There are no benefits or penalties for extending multiple Invitations.

### **If our church extends an Invitation to Ignite for \$20,000 or more, are there additional requirements we should know about?**

If your Invitation to Partnership seeks a financial commitment from the Presbytery of \$20,000 or more keep your eyes open for details of the Combustion Chambers. This will be a "STIR – sitting together is radical" style event where each partnership (in the \$20,000 category) still being considered by Ignite will be invited to have a face to face conversation with Ignite where they make their pitch. The Combustion Chamber is designed to give Ignite a chance to ask questions, get clarity about what is being proposed and gauge energy as we make the final decisions about these big grants. In 2019, there will be Combustion Chambers in conjunction with each Presbytery meeting. The deadline for consideration at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Presbytery meeting will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **If we aren't going to be ready for the May 1st deadline, will we still be able to get money in 2019?**

In 2019, we will be reviewing Invitations to Partnership as they are received. We hope to be able to fund all Invitations that are approved in 2019. We have limitations not only on the amount of money we can grant but also cash flow realities to deal with as well. So, if a partner can think ahead and provide a 2,3, or 4-year plan for mission/ministry, this gives us a sense of how organized and established the ministry is and it also makes it possible for us to consider the request alongside our financial realities and respond creatively. Perhaps making it possible for us to do more, but in a time frame beyond December 2019.