



VUU's Small Grants Program!

Got an idea that would further VUU's mission? VUU's Special Funds Committee (SFC) is accepting grant applications. VUU staff and members are eligible to apply.¹

Purpose of grant: To further VUU's mission:

- To build and strengthen our community of love and friendship.
- To provide service within or to the broader community.
- To strengthen our social justice outreach programs.

Size / Duration / Reports – Grants are accepted up to the amount of funds available, which is based on the funds in the endowment at the end of June of the prior fiscal year. Funds for the specific grant request should be expended within three years. Reports should be made to the committee annually by the end of the fiscal year (June 30). Please include detailed expenditures and funds remaining (if any). Funds remaining at the end of the grant should be returned to the Endowment Fund.

Who May Apply? – VUU staff or VUU members. Each application must have at least three leaders / coordinators.

Coordination – If the purpose of the grant is something that is part of a functioning VUU committee's or current staff member's work, the application **MUST** be coordinated with that committee or person or explain how the coordination will occur.

Process – The SFC will review applications shortly after they are received, discuss at a regular or special meeting, and report the decision to the proposer in a timely manner. Applications may be submitted at any time for the allocation available for that fiscal year. If funds remain, they will be carried over into the next year.

Constraints – Funds should NOT be requested for activities that are ordinarily covered in the current operating budget unless those funds have been expended or committed or need to be supplemented.

Application (no more than three pages) (Submit via e-mail to specialfunds@vuu.org)

- One page description of the project: What will be done? Who will do it? When? Why? How?
- Explain in detail how this furthers VUU's mission.
- Budget – Amount requested and what it will be spent for, and when.
- Leaders / coordinators and brief (one paragraph) description of qualifications to lead the project. Explain coordination with relevant staff or committees at VUU.
- Time line – when will you start? Key timelines.

Examples of projects (these are ONLY examples and are not intended to influence or in any way direct applicants.)

- Technical upgrade (for music, on-line services, in-person services, etc.)
- Building bridges with other organizations with an emphasis on diversity outreach, and building welcoming communities within the Congregation
- Training for VUU members or staff (technical, worship, organizational, leadership, etc.)
- Outstanding speakers series for Sunday services (Who? Stipends? How? Why?)
- Publication of colorful brochures and mailing costs to promote a VUU program and its on-line presence or VUU's Sunday morning services; or stewardship program
- Building partnerships with local advocacy groups (contributions, professional zoom, brochure, socially-distanced coffee)

¹ The SFC sets aside either (a) 4% of the value of the endowment at the end of June, or (b) the average annual increase in the value of the endowment over the past 5 years, whichever is lower.