



The Synod of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Grants and Scholarships Team

2023 Annual Report

January 30, 2024

In 2023, the Synod's Grants and Scholarship Committee continued to refine its processes for awarding higher education scholarships and grants to churches and parachurch organizations. The committee continues in all its work to align itself with the Synod's mission to reflect the Matthew 25 Initiatives of addressing structural racism and poverty and building congregational vitality.

Higher Education Scholarships

While holding this as a priority for all our grants and scholarships, this year the Committee experimented with adopting a rubric that helped focus our higher education scholarships toward those who were most in need financially. These scholarships, though a modest amount financially, can make a significant impact on our young Christian leaders and bind them closer not only to their home church but also to their presbytery and synod, reminding them of the blessings of our connectional denomination. Awardees made thank you videos which were shown in their home presbyteries. This year, on behalf of the Synod, we awarded over \$40,000 in scholarships to 44 students from 9 presbyteries and 19 different churches. These awards ranged from \$500 to \$2000 and were given for 35 bachelor's degrees, 2 associate degrees, and 7 theology degrees. 52% of the scholarships went to students who self-identified as Black, Korean, Asian, or African.

Church/Parachurch Matthew 25 Grants

Applicants for our Matthew 25 grants identify and describe in detail projects that address one or more of the three Matthew 25 Initiatives. The Committee reviewed 38 applications, revealing that our Synod is blessed with an abundance of "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love." As we did last year, the Committee offered video instruction and coaching to assist with application completion. This year, on behalf of the Synod, we awarded \$50,000 in grants to 17 congregations and ministries in 9 presbyteries. These awards ranged from \$600 to \$5000. We continue the process of reviewing the grants at the 6 month and 12 month mark to help us refine our process and to both celebrate and evaluate how these grants are bearing the fruit of Christ's love in their communities.

I am grateful for the dedication and thoughtfulness of the committee members who do this work faithfully, earnestly participating in fulfilling the mission of the Synod through the generous budget that has been entrusted to us. Committee members in 2023 included Ministers of Word

and Sacramento Betty Angelini, Barry Chance, Erin Guzman, Skip Jackson, and Matt Meinke, and Ruling Elders Lisa Allgood, Jackie Humphreys, and Georgia McCall. Thank you to our Synod Executive, Chip Hardwick for his thoughtful leadership and for staff support from him and Heather Johnston, who kept all our applications organized. It is a blessing and honor to do this work on behalf of our Synod and to God's glory.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Amy Duiker, Moderator