

# **Bay Association of the Northern California-Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ Grants Policy**

The Bay Association Executive Council has refined guidelines and procedures for the use of funds received at ordinations and installations. This policy describes the types of grants awarded and how to apply for them. The majority of all grant monies will be awarded to congregations to fund Ministers-in-Training. Additional grants, which also aid persons preparing for ministry in the UCC, will be awarded based upon availability of funds and number of applications. Decisions of the Bay Association Executive Council are final.

## **PART ONE: Grants to Congregations**

**Who Can Apply:** Any congregation with standing or in-care status in the Bay Association. Current guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from the Bay Association website: <http://bayassociation.org>.

**How to Apply:** Contact the Bay Association Executive Board if you did not receive a mailing by mid-March. To contact the board use the email address [board@bayassociation.org](mailto:board@bayassociation.org). Keep in mind that the Bay Association Executive Council meets monthly except July and December.

### **1. A. Minister-in-Training Grant**

**Purpose:** To offset cost of hiring a Minister-in-Training to work with your congregation for a full academic year.

**Amount:** Not to exceed one-half of the PSR Field Office's suggested minimum stipend; cost to be shared with local congregation and other sources

**Comments:** Qualifying Minister-in-Training programs are directed by a local seminary and require a supervising pastor.

**Deadline:** April 15<sup>th</sup>

## **PART TWO: Grants to Persons In Discernment**

**Note: Four types of grants are available to individuals.**

**Who Can Apply:** Any individual on track for ordination in the UCC who has been taken in-discernment by a Bay Association congregation, even if in discernment status has yet to be established with Committee on Ministry – Section A. If awaiting a meeting with Section A, please include a message from someone from your church who can validate your local church in-discernment status.

**Overall Expectations:** Persons who receive grants from the association are expected to participate as fully in the life of the association as possible. “In discernment” persons receive free admission to seasonal meetings of the association, and should also attend as many local UCC gatherings and ceremonies as possible – especially those hosted by the Bay Association or the Northern California-Nevada Conference.

### **How to Apply**

Write to the Bay Association Executive Board ([board@bayassociation.org](mailto:board@bayassociation.org)) requesting a grant. Keep in mind that the Bay Association Executive Council meets monthly except July and December.

Information to include in your application letter:

- 1) your name
- 2) current mailing address, phone number, and email
- 3) church where you hold membership and in-discernment status
- 4) status with Committee on Ministry – Section A (and a letter from your local church if CoM-A hasn't granted “in discernment” status yet)
- 5) any other ecclesiastical standing information that is helpful
- 6) grant information – which one, how much, any specifics requested

### **2. A. Center for Ministry Grant**

**Purpose:** To offset cost of required psychological evaluations for persons preparing for ordained ministry conducted at the Center for Ministry in Oakland, CA. **Special Note:** If the Committee on Ministry – Section A grants permission to use other providers, we will expand our coverage, too.

**Amount:** Not to exceed one-third of the total cost of the evaluation,

**Comments:** “In discernment” persons should make request for grant as soon as an appointment is scheduled. The Bay Association expects local churches to assist with cost, in addition to this grant.

**Deadline:** none

### **2. B. NCNC Annual Gathering Grant**

**Purpose:** To offset cost of attending Northern California-Nevada Conference's Gathering.

**Amount:** Not to exceed one-third of the total cost

**Comments:** In-discernment” persons are expected to attend the Bay Association meeting held during the annual gathering of the conference. The Bay Association also expects local churches to assist with these costs and urges applicants to take advance of

conference discounted arrangements for persons “in discernment”.

Deadline: One month before early registration deadline.

### **2.C. UCC Polity/History Grant**

Purpose: To offset cost of approved UCC polity/history classes (contact Committee on Ministry – Section A) for persons who have completed a M.Div. or its equivalent, but were not UCC affiliated during seminary and are currently in the process of establishing standing in the UCC through a congregation in the Bay Association.

Amount: Not to exceed one-third of the total cost

Comments: The Bay Association expects local churches to assist as possible.

Deadline: One month before class registration deadline

### **2.D. UCC Boundary Training Grant**

Purpose: To offset cost of required Clergy Boundary Training.

Amount: Not to exceed one-third of the total cost

Comments: The Bay Association expects local churches to assist as possible.

Deadline: none