

General Assembly Restricted Funds Unassigned Funds Grants

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Additional Guidelines for Fund 70047

1. What are General Assembly Unassigned Restricted Funds?

A: Certain existing restricted funds and new funds intended for use in the United States and Puerto Rico that do not specifically designate use by a Presbyterian Mission Agency ministry area are used to fund a program that provides grants to other PC(USA) mid councils. These are known as Unassigned Funds.

2. Who is responsible for this program?

A: The Restricted Funds Oversight Subcommittee (RFOS) is responsible for this program.

3. When is the list of funds available for application released?

A: By March 1 of each calendar year.

4. When is funding made available to grant recipients?

A: Grants are distributed in early October of each calendar year.

5. Are grants made for mission work outside the United States and Puerto Rico?

A: No, grants are not made for mission work outside the United States and Puerto Rico.

6. Is funding available for mission trips?

A: No, funding is not available for mission trips.

7. Are grants made for church construction and/or repair?

A: No, grants are not made for church construction and/or repair.

8. Are grants made for student financial aid?

A: No, grants are not made for student financial aid.

9. Is unassigned funding available for audiovisual/computer equipment?

A: Typically, the RFOS Committee does not fund audiovisual and/or computer equipment.

10. Is unassigned funding available for salary and/or staff support?

A: Typically, the RFOS Committee does not fund salary/staff support.

11. We would like to pay young adults who participate in the internship program. This program would include their education in the church, specialized tasks, etc. To apply for the funds, is it necessary to meet the specific needs of the provider? Or, is it a more general type of inquiry?

A: The donor places restrictions on these funds, and the project/program has to meet the donor's intent in order for it to be considered for funding. The Committee does not fund salary/staff support.

12. Can an application be submitted for a program that is scheduled to be held this summer?

A: No, an application cannot be submitted for a program that is scheduled to be held this summer. The RFOS committee meets in September to review applications and make funding recommendations, and grants are disbursed in early October.

13. Can you explain more about fund 59239—mission program with preference given to advocacy for environment and evangelism? What do you mean by "advocacy for environment?"

A: The proposal should demonstrate a connection to the environment and God's creation. In addition, the application should demonstrate that the program will likely draw new members and/or expose nonmembers to the beliefs of the Presbyterian Church. For example, a compost bin in unused space in the church's backyard and a meditation garden; this will be used for VBS, church school, meditation and worship.

14. Is fund 70047 only for people who are training to become ordained, or does it also apply to ministers who are already ordained but are receiving additional education and training?

A: The pool of money for this grant is restricted to use in the "Western United States area to train ministers for preaching and teaching of the Bible." Based on the wording of the bequest and the donor's residence (Oregon) the Restricted Funds Oversight Subcommittee (RFOS) determined that grants would be for use in the Western 5 synods (Alaska-Northwest, Pacific, Rocky Mountains, Southern California & Hawaii and Southwest).

Seminary students, who are just learning to preach, would not qualify for funding from this grant. The emphasis must be on training ministers; therefore, scholarships should go to ministers from the western five synods. Commissioned Ruling Elders ("CREs") may attend training programs so long as those programs are primarily designed for, and attended by, ministers.

15. Does this apply to location of events? To participants?

A: The funds must be used in these synods and primarily benefit ministers from these synods. Ministers from outside these synods may attend programs/events planned with money stemming from grants but should not receive scholarships. Scholarships should only go to ministers from the noted five western synods.

16. Are individual scholarships given to ministers to attend training programs/events outside the five western synods?

A: No. The purpose of this grant is not to give individual scholarships to attend events outside the five western synods. It is intended that monies from this fund be used to plan and develop preaching and teaching programs/events within the governing body. Scholarships should only go to ministers (from the noted five western synods) to support participation in those programs/events.

17. As scholarships are given to ministers for preaching and teaching programs/events, are they restricted to Presbyterians?

A: Scholarships should be given only to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ["PC(USA)"] ministers or ministers from full-communion denominations as defined by the *Book of Order* (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Reformed Church in America, and United Church of Christ).

18. Are grants awarded for reimbursement of individual seminar expenses?

A: No. The RFOS does not award grants for reimbursement of individual seminar expenses.

19. Are Commissioned Ruling Elders ("CREs") included in events? Is it possible to have events for CREs independently of ordained ministers?

A: PC(USA) CREs may attend events but the events should primarily benefit Teaching Elders ("TEs"). There should not be separate events for CREs and TEs.

Additional Guidelines for Fund 70047

Restriction: Train ministers for preaching/teaching Bible, Western U.S. area

Grants from fund 70047 must be used within the “Western Five” synods—Alaska-Northwest, Pacific, Rocky Mountains, Southern California and Hawaii and Southwest.

The gift from which this grant originates is restricted to the training of “ministers.” The Book of Order creates a clear distinction between ministers and Commissioned Ruling Elders (“CREs”). Accordingly, this grant may not be used to provide programs designed solely for CREs or to cover the expenses (including travel and registration) of CREs. CREs may attend training programs as long as those programs are primarily designed for, and attended by, ministers.

The Restricted Funds Oversight Subcommittee (RFOS) has established additional guidelines for the administration of fund 70047 “for training of ministers in the West in Biblical preaching/teaching.”

Specifically, we want to identify the following guidelines for you:

1. No presbytery or synod will be considered for a grant if it has applied before and failed to submit a compliance report for the funds received.
2. The grant is to provide funding primarily for Presbyterian pastors. Others who may be included are pastors of churches in the Formula of Agreement (with which we are in full communion). These are UCC, ELCA, and Reformed Church in America. It cannot be used ecumenically.
3. The donor was quite specific about the funds being used for ministers. The bequest was written at a time when commissioned ruling elders (“CREs”) were already part of the polity of our church. The latitude we have been given is that CREs may participate in the event, but the event may not be marketed for CREs.
4. The funds are to be used within a two-year period. An extension may be applied for, but should not be automatically assumed.
5. Funds are not given for staff to administer a program but are designed primarily for the program itself and its participants.
6. All requests should show the date of the action of a presbytery and/or synod council in support of the proposal. This assures us that this is a proposal that has been discussed and for which there is support of a governing body.
7. Compliance reports are expected quarterly and upon completion of the program.
8. A final report, along with an evaluation of the program, is expected. The final report should include a full budget report and provide information on how all funds have been expended. Terms of the grant stipulate that any unexpended funds must be returned to the following address:

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
RESTRICTED FUNDS OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE
100 WITHERSPOON ST ROOM 6629
LOUISVILLE KY 40202-1396

9. Funds are to be administered by a governing body. Normally, the expectation is that a mid council will be a grant applicant/recipient.
10. Grant monies may not be used for candidates for Minister of Word and Sacrament who are not yet ordained.
11. The restriction for geography is the five (5) western synods (Alaska-Northwest, Pacific, Rocky Mountains, Southern California and Hawaii and Southwest).
12. Funds must be used within the bounds of these synods, primarily to support participation of ministers from these synods. Ministers from outside these synods may attend events planned with money stemming from grants but they should not receive assistance to participate.
13. Assistance should be given only to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ["PC(USA)"] ministers or ministers from full-communion denominations as defined by the Book of Order (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Reformed Church in America, and United Church of Christ).
14. Keynote speakers must be primarily from the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition and present a balanced perspective if non-Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition speakers are included.
15. This fund is not for individual scholarships to non-governing body events but is to be used to support participation within the bounds of the requesting governing body.