**Grant Guidelines for The West Virginia Conference Higher Education Team**

**Purpose:** These guidelines outline the process for applying for grants from The West Virginia Conference Higher Education Team to support ministries with college students throughout the West Virginia Conference.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be connected with a United Methodist Church within the West Virginia Conference. This could include:

* Campus ministries and student organizations
* United Methodist campus centers
* Church-based college student groups
* Individual United Methodist student leaders

**Funding Cycle:** Applications will be accepted twice each year. 2024 deadline is June 30th for 2024 grants. November 15th, 2024, for 2025 Grants. Decisions will be made by July 31st and December 15th.

**Categories and Types of Grants:**

* **General Category:**
	+ **Personnel:** Supports salaries, benefits, and other costs associated with paid staff positions related to college student ministry.
	+ **Scholarship:** Provides financial assistance to college students involved in United Methodist-affiliated ministries.
	+ **One-time Event:** Funds a specific event or program for college students, such as a retreat, conference, or outreach activity.
	+ **Regular Programming:** Supports ongoing ministry activities with college students, such as Bible studies, small groups, service projects, or social events.
* Grants shall not be given to building repairs, capital items (air conditioners, furnaces), or program-related equipment technology.

**Funding Amounts:** There is no set limit on the amount requested; however, awards will be determined based on the merit of the application, available funding, and alignment with the mission of the Higher Education Team.

**Application Process:**

1. Review these guidelines carefully.
2. Complete the online application form <https://wvumc-reg.brtapp.com/HigherEducationGrant> also available on the Conference website wvumc.org/young-disciples/campus-ministry/
3. Include an executive summary of your grant request.
4. Submit the application and all required supporting documents by the deadline.

**Selection Criteria:** All applications will be reviewed by the Higher Education Team based on the following criteria:

* **Creating Space for Discipleship & Spiritual Growth**
* **Building an Inclusive & Nurturing Community**
* **Preparing Students for Engaged & Authentic Lives**
* **Affirming the Link Between the Church & the Academy**
* **Clear description of need**
* **Qualifications of leadership and team**
* **Sustainability of the project**

**Reporting:** Grant recipients must submit a mid-semester and end-of-semester report outlining progress and outcomes.

**Training:** The Higher Education team requires grant recipients to complete Safe Sanctuaries or Boundaries Training.

**Disclaimer:** These guidelines are subject to change at any time. Please refer to the Higher Education Team website for the latest information and application materials.

**Additional Information:**

* For questions, please contact Karen Thaxton at kthaxton@wvumc.org
* We encourage you to explore our website wvumc.org/young-disciples/campus-ministry/ for additional resources and information about college student ministry in the West Virginia Conference.