

# South Central District New Church Development

## Partnership and Funding Procedures

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New Church Development in the Kentucky Annual Conference is a partnership between local leaders and ministries, District leaders, and Conference leaders. While both the District and the Conference provide funding, there is a difference in their additional roles. It is the role of the Conference to provide formal oversight and coaching to New Faith Communities (NFC) and their leaders, and it is the role of the District to provide supportive relationship to leaders and to develop local connections designed to ensure ministry leaders are properly resourced. For further details on the Conference NCD roles, visit [kyncd.org](http://kyncd.org).

An NFC's relationship with the District NCD Team involves three stages: partnership, funding, and continuation. Below you will find an explanation of the application process and timeline for each stage as well as relevant timelines of the District NCD's work.

### Partnership

#### Application

The relationship between an NFC and the District NCD Team begins with partnership. The district welcomes and review applications for partnership throughout the year, so it is encouraged that NFC's complete this stage of the application process at any time.

To begin the process, complete the NFC application found at [www.southcentraldistrictumc.org](http://www.southcentraldistrictumc.org) and submit it to the District NCD Chair. You will be scheduled to meet with the DS and the District NCD Chair. They will help you assess your application and determine to which of the following pathways the NFC belongs:

- **Fresh Expressions:** A Fresh Expression is bringing church to where people are. The goal is not to connect people back to an existing local congregation, but for them to experience Christ in the context of a community that is created outside the walls of the church. KYAC Examples: The Ark at Covenant UMC, Heartland District; Second Life, South East Kentucky District; Upton Emerge, Heartland District
- **Multi-site:** An existing congregation launches a new venue for ministry. While the new venue may have its own distinct target audience, strategy, staff, or culture, the intent is to stay connected to the original church. KYAC Example: The Source at Southern Hills, Lexington District
- **Focused Worship:** Focused worship is creating a new worshipping community within an existing congregation, which seeks to reach new people with a different worship experience than what is already offered. KYAC Example: Canvas at St. Matthews UMC, Heartland District

- Missional: A missional plant feels called to reach a specific area or a specific people group that necessitates the need for continued funding. The goal is not for these plants to become self-sustaining in the normal timeline of 3-5 years, so multiple partnerships and funding streams must be established to guarantee the health of the mission. KYAC Example: Grace Kids, Heartland District
- Ethnic/Multicultural: An Ethnic/Multicultural plant seeks to intentionally reach people from diverse ethnic groups represented in our Annual Conference. KYAC Example: Fuente de Avivamiento, Lexington District
- International: We are not just committed to planting churches in Kentucky, but around the world. Therefore, the Conference provides one-time grants to start NFCs in other countries. KYAC Example: Thailand Methodist Mission and Cuban church plants (if the NFC fits this category, they will connect you to the Conference NCD Team to determine next steps)
- Church Plant: A planter is sent into an area to plant a new church, which is still connectional in nature and involves many levels of partnership, but is independent from any other UM congregation and intends to charter. KYAC Example: Revolution, Heartland District (this pathway is not currently recommended by the Conference NCD and is not being considered for District funding at this time)

If the intended ministry does not fit any of these categories, it is unlikely to qualify for partnership with or funding from the District NCD.

Following this discernment process, you will be invited to come to the next scheduled District NCD Team meeting to share about the NFC.

### **Approval**

If the team chooses to enter into partnership with the NFC, this partnership will serve as the District NCD's official recommendation to the Conference NCD for your NFC to be considered for their support.

To establish or continue the partnership between the NFC and the District NCD, a partnership covenant agreement will be signed by you, the DS, and the District NCD Chair. The District NCD Chair will organize a time to finalize this document.

Following your interview, you will be contacted by the District NCD Chair to be notified of the team's decision. It is possible the team will choose not to enter into partnership with your NFC but will still seek to provide you with some support. For instance, the team may provide a formal letter to your home church encouraging support of your ministry or it may connect you to a local resource that will be helpful in taking your next steps.

### **Timeline**

January-December	Receiving, reviewing, and approving applications for partnership
March	Conference NCD Team approves Conference year funding
October	Conference NCD Team approves calendar year funding

## Funding

### Application

The District NCD Team considers funding requests in February and August of each year and distributes funding after the NFC is granted final approval for funding from the Conference in April or October. NFC's are eligible for District NCD funding for the first five years of its existence. The District NCD provides micro-grants of no more than \$2,000/year (Conference or calendar based on time of submission). The NFC must provide proof of matching income to receive the grant.

If you have not previously applied for partnership, follow the application instructions found above under the Partnership heading in addition to the following instructions. Partnership and funding materials can be submitted simultaneously, but note that your funding materials must be submitted by January 31 to be considered in February or by July 31 to be considered in August. Review the included timelines for more information.

By January 31 or July 31, submit the following supporting materials to the District NCD Chair:

1. A detailed Ministry Action Plan. Templates and guidelines for this document can be found at <https://kyumc-ncd.brtsite.com/mapsandstrategicplanning>.
2. A line-item budget detailing all anticipated expenses and sources of income, including the District grant and Conference NCD matching funds you are requesting.
3. A 2-page (12pt, Times New Roman, Double Spaced) summary of the ministry you intend to start, answering the following questions:
  - a. What is the new ministry you intend to start?
  - b. How does the ministry address needs in the community you intend to serve?
  - c. Why do you feel uniquely called to start this ministry?
  - d. Who is already partnering with you in accomplishing this vision?
  - e. If applicable, what signs of fruitfulness have you already seen in this ministry?

These are the same supporting materials required to be approved for funding by the Conference NCD Team and should be prepared carefully. They are intended to be materials that support the NFC's development, so the more intentional you are in completing them, the more useful they will be to you. When preparing your budget, make a realistic income goal.

### Approval

Following the submission of materials, the District NCD Team will review your materials prior to its February or August meeting. You will be contacted by the District NCD Chair to schedule a time for you to be present at the District NCD Team's February or August meeting. Please come to the interview ready to discuss the following:

- All of your submitted materials in detail.
- A succinct introduction to the NFC you might share with a nonbeliever.
- All funding options you have considered, pursued, and/or intend to pursue.
- What we can provide for you in our partnership besides funding.

As when an NFC is approved for partnership, approvals for funding will be certified with a partnership covenant effective for the following conference or calendar year. Approval for funding one year does not guarantee funding for the next year.

**Disbursement**

District grants will be distributed in a lump sum when proof of actual income is provided.

**Timeline**

January 31	Funding materials due for Conference year requests
February	District NCD Team reviews materials, conducts interviews
April	Conference NCD considers Conference year funding
July 31	Funding materials due for calendar year requests
August	District NCD Team reviews materials, conducts interviews
October	Conference NCD considers calendar year funding

**Continuation**

**Application**

Your continued partnership with the District NCD will be determined annually in February or August and requires the following actions:

- Quarterly interactions with a designated member of the District NCD to receive prayer, be guided, and make requests of the team to help address immediate needs.
- District NCD’s review of the quarterly reports submitted to the Conference NCD.
- Annual resubmission of revised funding materials by January 31 or July 31 to be considered for an additional grant.

During the course of the year, you may identify additional funding needs. If you are in partnership with the District NCD and identify a critical one-time need, you may request funding to address this need. Consideration of this request will be contingent on the availability of funds in the District NCD’s budget.

**Approval**

The review of your materials and interview process will follow the same timeline every year. If a continuation in partnership and funding is approved, a new partnership covenant document will be signed to be effective for the following year.