

Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns Guidelines

General

The Committee on Ethnic Local Concerns of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, in accordance with the mandate of ¶ 631 of the Book of Discipline, publishes the following guidelines to govern the overall direction of the Committee's work and to set specific standards against which grant requests and proposals will be evaluated.

Policy Objectives

The items in **bold** print represent the mandates of the Book of Discipline. Each mandate is followed by discussion of the application of that mandate in the South Carolina Annual Conference.

The ELCC will keep the vision of ethnic local churches and ministry concerns before the South Carolina Annual Conference.

The Committee on ELCC will network with the advocacy ministries of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Religion and Race, Native American Concerns, The Asian American Committee, and The Committee on the Status and Role of Women and (COSROW). The ELCC will work closely with the Office of Congregational Development on issues affecting ethnic groups within the Annual Conference. The ELCC will work to keep the vision and ministries of ethnic local churches and other recognized ethnic ministry groups before the Annual Conference through communications, publications, website and email notices, and through visual aids and presentations.

The ELCC will provide guidance and resources to churches and ministries in the South Carolina Annual Conference through our ministries to ethnic constituencies.

The goal of the ELCC is to strengthen local ethnic churches and ethnic ministries for mission and ministry. We will encourage sharing of resources and ideas among ethnic congregations to assure that those who have needs learn from the experiences and programs successfully implemented elsewhere. We will provide limited direct financial assistance to stimulate interest in projects that have a high potential for enhancing the impact of ethnic ministries.

The ELCC will coordinate the South Carolina Conference strategies related to ethnic local church concerns including general church emphases and initiatives.

The ELCC will participate in the SEJ ELCC Training as well as training from General Church Agencies.

Guidelines for Grant Proposals and Awards

Because the funds available to the ELCC are limited, we recognize the need to target those funds for ethnic local churches, ethnic ministries, and conference initiatives who have a specific need and who have the demonstrated desire and preparedness to move forward with a potentially worthwhile project if additional funding were available. The following guidelines are designed to assure the best use of limited resources and to provide maximum positive impact on ethnic local churches and ministries throughout the Annual Conference.

The ELCC will provide no funding for salaries or buildings. All grant proposals and applications must be submitted on the ELCC grant request form. ALL information requested on the form must be provided BEFORE the ELCC will consider the request. The forms will be available on the website and may be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the ELCC grant coordinator.

Each request will be dated upon receipt by the ELCC grant coordinator to assure that requests are considered in the order received.

The deadlines for grant proposals and applications are February 1, April 1, August 1, and October 1 of each year. Applications submitted after a cut-off date will be considered in the next application cycle. All grant requests will be brought before the ELCC; however, those not meeting the ELCC criteria for consideration will be so identified by the ELCC grant coordinator.

Approval of grants will be by (1) a majority vote of the ELCC members present.

Approval of grant requests will be provided orally or by email immediately following the action of the ELCC. A formal letter of approval to the pastor or head of the ministry will follow with an informational copy to the ministry's District Superintendent.

The notification letter will include conditions and specifications related to the use of the approved grant funds and will outline the requirements for accounting to the ELCC for the use of those funds. Ethnic local churches and other organizations will be eligible to apply for subsequent grants only if they properly account for the use of awarded grant monies. The ELCC grant coordinator will obtain the appropriate documentation from those receiving grants on the proper use of approved grant monies and report quarterly to the ELCC.