**United Methodist Church of Vista**

**Outreach Grant Program 2020 - 2021**

**Application Deadline is August 1, 2020**. Applications may be accessed via the umcvista.org website. No application is considered complete until all supporting documents (501(c)3) certificate, Organization Budget and Project Budget) are received. All applications must be submitted electronically.

**First Round of Review will be completed by August 7, 2020** by a small committee of three persons. Late applications will not be considered. First Review is for: Completion of Application, Alignment with the UMC Social Principals, and Non-Discrimination policy. Applications which pass this review move to the full congregation to get a ‘congregational shepherd’ to move the application through the rest of the process.

**Congregational Shepherds** are members of the congregation who have an earnest interest in one outreach grant application and want to learn more about the request, and the organization who submitted the application. Each Shepherds commits to reviewing the request, and the organization, and providing our Administrative (Church) Council with feedback and input.

\*Shepherds from previous years will be sent an email and invited to shepherd organizations this year. Also, Congregants that wish to shepherd an application they see in the mass email will be able to email the Outreach email address.

**Training for Shepherds will be held on Sunday, August 23, 2020, 12:00 p.m. via Zoom**. This training will serve as a time when specific responsibilities will be discussed with Shepherds.

**Shepherd recommendations and evaluations** **are due Sunday, September 6, 2020. All Shepherd Recommendations must be submitted via email to the Outreach email address**.

**After Congregational Shepherds return their recommendations and evaluations, Administrative (Church) Council will receive a copy of all applications, reviews and accompanying information. All information will be available on a flash drive and available for pick up at church office by September 20, 2020. (\*We are reviewing additional electronic means of sharing this information with Administrative (Church) Council also.)**

**Administrative (Church) Council during October 2020** will review all applications and information, taking time to respond to any clarifying questions strictly for informational purposes. \*In order to strive for equal opportunity of every application, no advocacy is encouraged, and all grant requests will be reviewed for the same amount of time. Prioritizing by vote will be at the **October Zoom meeting.** \*Those who want to participate in voting must be present during the meeting.

\*Prioritization Vote: Members of the Administrative (Church) Council are encouraged to vote prayerfully, based on an alignment with the Christian faith, to support both the United Methodist Church, other faith communities and secular organizations doing effective community programing and outreach, both locally and globally.

**Administrative (Church) Council during November 2020** will prayerfully discern funding levels for each grant request based on the outcome of the prioritization vote in October. The organization receiving the highest priority will be the first discussed for funding, and so on based on descending prioritization. Recommendations will be submitted to an All Church Meeting usually in November each year for final approval.

All Grants are usually dispersed in February of the following year.