

One Hopeful Fund  
Presbytery of Cincinnati  
Overview

The “One Hopeful Fund” (referred to in this document as OHF) of the Presbytery of Cincinnati represents a unified grant system. The primary aim of creating the OHF, is to advance the mission and ministry of the congregations and individual members of the Presbytery of Cincinnati into a collaborative network of partnerships.

The OHF seeks to support ideas historically funded through “Local Mission Partnerships” and through “Outdoor/Christian Education Scholarships.” It also hopes to fund additional ideas related to Presbyterian forms of evangelism, justice ministries, congregational revitalization, and leadership development. The OHF seeks to support and incubate these and other new or yet to be dreamed ideas within our Presbytery.

Money for the OHF will come solely from the “Shared Basic Mission Support” to the Presbytery of Cincinnati. “Shared Basic Mission Support” is a category of mission giving in the Presbyterian Church (USA) that indicates participation in the mission of the whole church (PCUSA). Shared Basic Mission Support gifts are used for Presbytery (87%), Synod (3%) and General Assembly (10%) mission. The Presbytery portion of a session’s Shared Basic Mission Support will be the source of funding for the OHF. In other words, when churches donate to the shared mission of our Presbytery, it will be designated for the OHF. Importantly, no funds from the general budget of the Presbytery will be mixed with the OHF, nor will any funds donated for shared mission be used for the general budget.

Since resources for the OHF will come only from “Shared Basic Mission Support” donations, that means that the success of the traditional and new programs it supports relies upon our churches’ participation. This also means that the OHF is a limited source, based on annual designated discretionary gifts from sessions – typically included in a church’s annual budget, although some may draw from their endowment funds. If you appreciate some of the programs and initiatives that have been supported, then you should consider encouraging your church to support “Shared Basic Mission” donations to the Presbytery.

The OHF funding cycle is on an annual approval process, matching the Presbytery’s fiscal year. The Council of the Presbytery of Cincinnati is responsible for making decisions about approving funding requests through the OHF. The Council will review these requests based on the merits of the request and/or project in meeting the criteria and mission priorities of the Presbytery. The OHF will give out funding on a first-come, first-served basis, but consideration will be given for need-based requests, should multiple requests be received at the same time. Requests will typically only be approved for funding once per year. All checks, for projects or events, will be made out to churches, not individual people.

There are two categories for OHF requests:

1. Event Hosting (an event or initiative you’re hosting or creating)
2. Event Attending (an event you are attending as an individual or a small group)

Please complete one of the attached applications that matches your type of funding request.