

The Congregational Development Committee has awarded several congregational 2015 Second Chance Grants as listed below:

Barre Center Presbyterian Church

Awarded a grant of \$984 to fund the *implementation of a church website*. Through the creation, development, and ongoing maintenance of a church website, the hope is to: improve communication within the congregation; provide a modern and relevant mechanism for primary outreach both within and outside of the local community; and clear new paths for growing the congregation.

Byron Presbyterian Church

Awarded a grant of \$500 for the *“Hidden Treasure” project* intended to give much-needed strength to their Christian Education program by: securing consistent teacher/leadership for a span of five years; establish 4-6 week thematic units for Sunday School; design a dedicated Sunday School space with room and adequate supplies for children to spread out; publicize at least one special Sunday School or worship event each month to encourage the participation of families with young children; and develop adult opportunities for Christian Education beyond the existing monthly Bible Study.

Chili First, Downtown, Irondequoit, Penfield, and Twelve Corners Presbyterian Churches

Awarded a \$1200 grant for a *Collaborative Youth Group program*. This program seeks to provide meaningful and transformative Christian education, mission and fellowship to any youth or youth group (6th-12th grade) within the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. Five area youth groups (Downtown, Twelve Corners, Chili, Penfield and Irondequoit) have become founding members of this collaborative and are eager to expand their reach and impact. Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month, with additional seasonal opportunities for mission work and fellowship also planned, each month a different church will host the program and present a topic from the Re:Form curriculum. Lunch is provided as well as a game or activity, sharing joys and concerns, music and a video.

New Life Presbyterian Church

Awarded a \$500 grant for *“Get the Word Out, New Life has New Life!”* for banners over their front doors, portable signage for their highly successful outreach program to youth (Monroe Milers), and purchase of a vinyl overlay for the worship time on the outdoor sign which is no longer accurate. In forming a new relationship with South Presbyterian Church, sharing their pastor, music director and mission assistant, New Life is redefining who they are, what it means to be an urban church in Rochester, and what it means to be a participant/member of the congregation. Currently New Life’s ministry consists of 7 programs a month. Those will increase in the year ahead as they continue to work with South Presbyterian Church, and New Life wants to be able to inform the neighborhood through signage and front banners.

South Presbyterian Church

Awarded a \$500 grant for *Evangelism in Action*. There are three parts of our request, but all are related to evangelism: purchase of “A-frame” signage to promote the worship experience for BACK2CENTER, a Thursday evening casual worship service which has grown out of the Monday morning BIBLE & BREW community Bible study; portable signage naming the group, MT. HOPE WORLD SINGERS, the church, and advertising that day’s concert; banners for use at the Meadows, which add a bit of reverence and sacred beauty to the everyday space for the benefit of our worshipping community.

Third Presbyterian Church

Awarded a **\$1200** grant for “*Facing the Race*”. As a predominantly white, metropolitan congregation, Third Church seeks to engage in a constructive conversation about race. That way, the congregation might move ahead to begin to dismantle the individual racism that we each carry and structural racism in church and culture. The outcomes of this effort – a series of presentations, workshops and discussions – will be to raise awareness, to educate, and to form an action plan. When the project is complete, Third will be able to say that a certain percentage of our members, plus all of our officers (Session, Deacons, Trustees) and program staff, will have participated in some aspect of this conversation.

The United Church of Warsaw

Awarded a **\$1200** grant for “*Hunger is Everywhere, but Health-full Help is Near*”. The Warsaw Food Pantry, housed at The United Church of Warsaw, is the only Food Pantry serving all Wyoming County residents. From January 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, the Warsaw Food Pantry helped 3,500 people in need. This grant will help provide healthier food choices in addition to fresh produce and protein-rich foods (e.g., eggs and skinless, boneless chicken) for pantry clients, increase public awareness of the Warsaw Food Pantry, promote educational sessions on “Just Say ‘Yes’ to Fruits and Vegetables” through Foodlink, and expand our storage and service area to accommodate significantly increased number of clients. The church will also purchase an outdoor sign to advertise the hours of the Warsaw Food Pantry and compile and publish a brochure to be distributed intentionally throughout Wyoming County.