

INTRODUCING

Welcome and Hospitality Grants Program

From the Presbytery
of Western North Carolina



Showing welcome and hospitality to visitors is not just a “nice extra” for a church – it is central to the health of the congregation and a biblical mandate. A warm greeting, clear signage, friendly conversation, and genuine interest can help someone relax enough to receive worship, Scripture, and prayer.

We’ve all had the experience where no one has greeted us in a church beyond a smile or quick handshake. Before a visitor hears a sermon or sings a hymn, they are already asking:

- ➔ Do I belong here?
- ➔ Is this church safe?
- ➔ Will I be seen or ignored?

At its heart, Christian hospitality flows from gratitude for the welcome God has given us.

*Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God. – Romans 15:7*

**The Church Vibrancy
Team introduces
its new grant
program to help
make your church
a more welcoming
environment**

Congregations can receive a **maximum grant of \$5,000** to focus on welcome and hospitality. Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis and will remain available until funds run out.

Grants may be used to enhance first impressions and front door experiences. This may include improvements to physical spaces, signage, website design, communication tools, volunteer training, or other initiatives that help visitors connect more deeply.

THE PROCESS

1 Register your pastor or an elder and at least one other member of the congregation for a **mandatory two-hour hospitality training** via zoom. Two training dates are offered (you only need to attend one). Training #1: May 21 from 10 am to noon. Training #2: October 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Register for the training by emailing David Bonnema at david@unitypres.org.

2 After the training, meet with your session to **create your welcome/hospitality plan**. (You’ll learn how to create one during the training)

3 Turn in the **grant request form** with the welcome/hospitality plan.