

Apply Now For the 2024 Outreach & Mission Board Grant Called: **Imagine! Project**

The *Imagine! Project* grant application was established this year to provide seed money for a new ministry team project at Plymouth Congregational Church that is innovative, experimental, goes beyond the typical responses of other churches, or utilizes collaborative concepts such as the ones suggested in this application form.

The application period opens on June 15, 2024, and closes on September 1, 2024.

Please limit your application to at most two single-sided pages. When complete, please place it in the Outreach and Mission mailbox to the east of the sanctuary.

Money will be awarded to the selected project by October 1.

Part I. - Eligibility

Established Plymouth ministry teams and/or Plymouth members wishing to form a ministry team are invited to apply for grant money (up to \$4,000) from the Outreach and Mission Board for projects that align with Plymouth's mission, vision, and Christian progressive theology. See the following links:

<https://www.plymouthucc.org/new.html>

<https://www.plymouthucc.org/missionstatement.html>.

Project proposals should relate to Outreach & Mission within one of the following Plymouth mission areas: Inviting, Transforming, or Sending.

The *Imagine! Project* grant money may be used for any type of expenses that can further the goals of your project. Use your imagination!

Part II. – Required Application Content

To apply for an *Imagine! Project* grant, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. What is your proposed *Imagine! Project*? What name or title do you have for it?
2. Which Plymouth members and/or ministry team(s) will be involved?
3. Whom will you collaborate/partner with? Please provide a simple list.
4. Does your project incorporate any of the concepts of *Mutual Aid* or *Emergent Strategy* as described on the next page? For example, can you briefly describe how it will accomplish goals such as:
 - emphasizing voluntary collaboration within our community,
 - encouraging the exchange of resources and services for common benefit, or
 - building relationships within our community?

5. How does your project relate to Outreach & Mission within the three mission areas described under Part I?
6. Is your project a one-time event or series, or will it be sustained over time? Please explain your answer.
7. How will you evaluate your project? In other words, what will the impact be on our community and others? What measures will be collected/used to monitor the project's success?
8. Please attach a proposed project budget and approximate breakdown.

As you imagine your project, you might want to consider the following collaborative concepts that move beyond traditional one-directional charity:

Mutual Aid encourages us to:

- Build a shared understanding about why people do not have what they need,
- Invite all parties to participate in collective action, and
- Expand solidarity across communities.

As people who have resources, we partner with people who need help, and mutually aid one another through learning and exchanging resources.

(For more information, read *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It* by Robert D. Lupton. or *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis and the Next* by Dean Spade)

Emergent Strategy encourages us to think about how social justice movements emerge, embracing the idea that how we operate at the small scale is also how we will operate at the large scale. As such, we start projects at the smallest level at which we can effect change in hopes to make an impact that ripples (or emerges) outward and upward.

We do this work in collaboration with others through building trust, deepening relationships, and embracing new transformative ideas.

(For more information, read *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds* by Adrienne Maree Brown.)

Part III. – Reporting Requirements if Selected

Plymouth members or ministry teams are asked to provide sufficient documentation to the Outreach and Mission Board to ensure that funds are spent in a responsible, effective manner. This might include receipts, measures of project success, in-person reports, or written reports.

An interim written report should be submitted after 6 months and a final report after 12 months. A final financial report including receipts for expenditures should accompany the final report.

Applicants are also encouraged to make a presentation to the congregation about the funded project during the grant period.