

**Covenant Association**  
**Michigan Conference United Church of Christ**  
**Vogel Fund**  
***Supporting Lay Ministry & Leadership***

**Purpose of the fund** – to support and promote lay ministry and lay leadership

**1. History**

- a. In 1998, the Vogel family provided a substantial gift to the Covenant Association, with the intent of supporting and promoting lay ministry and leadership. At the time, the Vogel STEM Fund was designated to support laity in the STEM (Systematic Training for Effective Ministry) educational program.
- b. By 2016, the STEM program dissolved, leaving the designated funds dormant.
- c. In 2021, the Covenant Executive Team initiated conversation with the Vogel family toward formulating plans for the repurposing of the funds. They were excited to partner with us, keeping the intent of the fund basically the same.

**2. Examples of financial allocations** (including but not limited to):

- a. Support for lay pastoral care training through UCC Called to Care & Stephen's Ministries
- b. Boundary training through the Michigan Conference
- c. Lay leadership development
- d. Leadership training through Convergence & other UCC programs
- e. Youth ministry training
- f. Support for attending as a visitor to Conference meetings and/or General Synod
- g. Criminal background checks for lay ministerial standing
- h. Others as approved by Covenant Association Executive Team

**3. Eligibility**

- a. **Applicants must be lay persons**
- b. Applicants must be members of a Covenant Association church
- c. Preference given to first-time applicants
- d. Grants approved based on need, merit and available funds at time of application.
- e. Requested funds must meet approved allocations for use and:
  - i. Must be consistent with the biblical and theological principles and vision of the Covenant Association, Michigan Conference and United Church of Christ
  - ii. Must provide personal development for lay ministry and lay leadership through educational programs and other opportunities
  - iii. Recipients are expected to provide a written report regarding the impact of funding by the end of the fiscal year in which funds are disbursed (Dec. 31)

#### **4. How to apply**

- a. Complete Vogel Fund application (pages 3-4 of this document)
  - i. Submit completed application to:
    1. Dawn Christenson, Moderator
    2. Email: [revdawnchristenson@gmail.com](mailto:revdawnchristenson@gmail.com)
    3. Mailing address: 1480 Barry Rd., Williamston, MI 48895
    4. Questions? Email or call Dawn at 517-256-4268
  - ii. Copy to Keith Koebel, Treasurer
    1. Email: [koebelucc@yahoo.com](mailto:koebelucc@yahoo.com)
    2. Mailing address: 7662 El Cajon Ln, Jackson, MI 49201
  - iii. Deadline for applications: by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

**Covenant Association  
Vogel Fund Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Church of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Briefly explain the proposed use of the funds requested.

2. What is the anticipated impact of this proposal for you and your ministry setting?

3. Financial details (maximum award is \$500)

a. **Amount requested**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b. What is the total cost for this proposal? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

c. Explain additional funding sources and monies received, pledged, and/or applied for.

4. Is this the first time you have applied for Vogel Funds?       Yes       No

a. If no, please provide details of your previous experience(s).

5. Please add any additional information or comments that would be helpful to the Executive Team.