As the congregations of the West Virginia Conference are living in unprecedented times, the office of Congregational Vitality seeks to offer practical and timely support for congregations to connect to their communities and members while social distancing measures are a necessity. (And even once those measures have been lifted.)

We are offering matching grant to help offset expenses related to launching online worship services (ex: equipment, software licenses, etc.). If the total start-up investment needed is $450 and the church/charge invests $225, a grant of $225 could be awarded; if the total start-up investment needed is $1,000 (or more) and the church/charge invests $500 (or more), a grant of $500 could be awarded. **Maximum grant $500**

If you would like assistance in determining equipment, software licenses, etc. that would work best in your context or if you’d like to have a conversation about how to best integrate new technology into what you already have at hand, we suggest that you contact your Conference Communications team. (Director of Communications Deborah Coble may be reached at [dcoble@wvumc.org](mailto:dcoble@wvumc.org))

**GRANT DEADLINE**: submission deadline is **Friday May 8, 2020**.

You may go back to March 15, 2020 for purchases related to your new online worship strategy.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**:

When submitting this application, send it to [cridgway@wvumc.org](mailto:cridgway@wvumc.org)

You **must** copy the church/charge pastor, Church Ad. Board Chair, Lay Leader, and the District Superintendent.

**NOTE**: Priority will be given to churches/charges which have a history of faithful payment of apportionments and for those focusing on reaching new people.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Church/Charge:** |  |
| **City/Town:** |  |
| **District:** |  |
| **Pastor:** |  |
| **Pastor’s Email:** |  |
| **Church Ad. Board:** |  |
| **Church Ad. Board’s Email:** |  |
| **Lay Leader:** |  |
| **Lay Leader’s Email:** |  |
| **Check made payable to:** |  |
| **Address to mail check:** |  |

**Explanation of plan and means of conducting online worship.** (e.g. Facebook Live or other means; live streaming or pre-recorded)

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|  |

**Target Audience: What are your plans to reach these four main groups?**

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| 1. Those faithful attenders who are there in worship almost every week. |
| 1. Those attenders who are typically in worship from time-to-time, maybe once a month. |
| 1. Those who are on your membership roll, but you have not seen them for a while. |
| 1. Those who live in your mission field, a mile or two around your church, but do not currently have a church home. |

**Budget for the Online Worship Strategy:** (e.g. equipment, licensing)

**Explanation of importance of the budgeted equipment, licensing, etc. for this strategy:**

**What are your plans to continue utilizing this new online worship strategy once we are allowed to worship together again in our church buildings?**