

## **GUIDELINES FOR RECONCILIATION GRANTS IN KANSAS**

The Christian, by the very nature of the calling, is bound up in a ministry of reconciliation. The scriptures make it plain that reconciliation is the restoration of lost harmony between persons and God. It is God who takes the initiative and affects reconciliation; but its subordinate meaning extends to include reconciliation between persons, as well as between persons and their environment.

II Corinthians 5: 18-19

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (RSV)

The reconciliation concept is:

- founded on God as the initiator through the giving of the One whose life, death and resurrection gives direction to our lives.
- dependent upon the understanding that we have been given this ministry and task of reconciliation.
- believing that God now performs this work and makes this appeal in the world by and through those who truly love Him.
- stimulating each of us to reach out in a caring spirit for others, whether or not there is an appreciation of the caring.

The reconciliation program is:

- helping to make the biblical concept come alive in human relationships.
- the official position of the Christian Church.
- people-centered projects - some on-going and others experimental.
- personal involvement in the life of any community where people are hurting because of poverty, alienation, racism and fear.

THEREFORE, these guidelines shall apply in allocating Reconciliation Funds for programs within Kansas:

1. Priority will be given to programs which:
  - a. are Disciples of Christ related.
  - b. strike at the causes of poverty, alienation and racial discrimination and which give people the "tools" to solve their problems.
  - c. seek to change systems, e.g. laws, institutions, company practices, rather than to deal only with individual cases.
  - d. attempt to give persons control over the decisions which affect their lives.
  - e. involve local people, including members of congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), so that they will become more sensitive to the needs of others and be enabled to bring about change.
  - f. have a broad base of sponsorship; including ecumenical and community involvement.
  - g. are related to racial minority congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of

Christ).

2. Programs requesting Reconciliation grants should:
  - a. state measurable goals.
  - b. outline strategies for reaching those goals.
  - c. indicate resources available.
  - d. include evaluation procedures.
  - e. show a great likelihood of continuing beyond the life of the grant unless there is an obvious reason for a short term project.
  - f. not duplicate or unnecessarily overlap other projects in the same community.
  
3. Funding requirements include:
  - a. a conscious attempt to meet the criteria listed in #1 above.
  - b. a negotiated length of time funding can be expected.
  - c. an evaluation of the Reconciliation Committee of all projects in the funded year in the light of their stated purposes and goals.

This evaluation based on:

- 1) written project reports: e.g. program and/or financial reports that will portray the current life and health of the program.
  - 2) One visit to each project annually by a Reconciliation Committee member or person assigned.
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- d. A clear understanding that a program must demonstrate its viability through this report and evaluation in order to receive continued funding.
  - e. An awareness that projects will not be funded which can be supported out of other available monies from local, state or national sources.

