

Black Disciples Endowment Fund (BDEF) Grant Q&A Transcription (Abbreviated)

Facilitated by Elder Jackie Bunch, BDEF President, and
Dr. Delesslyn Kennebrew, Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation

In order to respect the privacy of the potential applicants who did login in for the Zoom meeting on 11/7/23, this transcription is being shared in lieu of the video.

Welcome! It is good to see all of you all here this evening. I am Dr. Delesslyn Kennebrew and I have the privilege and the honor and the joy of serving you as the Administrative Secretary for the National Convocation and Associate General Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Tonight, we are here to introduce to some and to clarify for others who may have already known about the Black Disciples Endowment Fund Grant. We are definitely excited to know of your interest in applying for this grant because that means that you have ideas. You have ideas that you would like to have supported that will benefit and bless others. So we are grateful for your willingness to show up and those who watch this later, we are excited about you and your ideas as well.

NOTE - Shared screen to show the website as well as location of grant application, grant cycle funding schedule, and place to submit midyear/end of year reports.

www.nationalconvocation.org/bdef

Tonight, Elder Jackie Bunch will actually be sharing the details of the grant. She is the leader, the chairperson of the Black Disciples Endowment Fund and she will go into more details about the grant. Thank you and hello to each of you. We're glad you are here to find out more information about this grant of up to \$5,000. There are three main areas in which we Grant funds up to \$5,000. One deals with congregational growth and vitality of congregations, and I think probably after Covid many of our churches probably need to reassess its growth and its vitality. We have loss some members during Covid, they quit coming, and some are never going to come back. Next, you see leadership development which includes minister recruitment, training, certification, and so forth, as well as lay leadership development and training. These scholarships enable one to go into the Christian vocation. Lastly, response to and advocacy for the well-being of the African-American community and we have some items listed here - proactive ministries of social justice identifying what needs are in your community, and then communicating those gifts in that community contributing to the journey towards wholeness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and response to crisis in the community. You see a fourth one listed here dealing with scholarship assistance with tuition if someone is a student and they're in school. Also, know that doesn't always mean clergy. It might be someone who is not planning to become clergy, but they are seeking assistance for attending various seminars, workshops, and conferences, or anything that will help to strengthen black ministries.

This fund was born out of an idea in 1990 and we've been around for a while. We're still around because individuals in the black church gave donations to this end. Some of them have gone on to their reward, some are still here and still giving. Our board is the fiduciary for those funds

now. Additionally, the merchant fund deals with educating clergy but has not been as active as the other categories.

For the last 20 years we've awarded this grant and BDEF continues reassessing how to better get the funds into the hands of the individuals that need it.

Regarding the mid-year and end of year reports for these grants of up to \$5,000, it is not our money, so we have to make sure the grants are issued correctly. So, we do have a mid-year report and we do have an end of the year report and we do like to receive pictures to see what's taking place with the grant. We have a board and we're making some changes to our board. Also, you might very well have someone in touch with you to see how things are going or if you need any additional help or something of that sort, please let us know.

Let me share with you that when filling out the application, make sure you fill in everything. Don't leave anything blank. If it doesn't pertain to what you're doing, put an n/a as your response. I've seen them returned because we didn't have all of the information. We have a number of board members and they all come from different perspectives and so forth, and so you want to make sure you complete that application. Again, if you have questions along the way, get in touch with Dr. Kennebrew or myself, and you do want to get it in on time. The deadline is December 5th.

I am putting the best email address in the chat - email NationalConvocation@disciples.org

One other thing that I will say for those that may have applied in the past, or you may have others who you're here to represent. One change to the application this year is that if you are applying for a grant and you are wanting to use the funds for a ministry at the church, then make sure that there is also a letter of support from your pastor or your board chair. We definitely have had people who have applied to do ministry at the church, but the pastor didn't know anything about it, so we want to make sure that everybody is aware. That is one change that is reflected on the application this year.

NOTE - People on the call shared how they heard about the grant - Pastor, Family, Facebook, Word of mouth, previous recipient, etc.

NOTE - Scrolled through the various parts of the grant in detail at www.nationalconvocation.org/bdef - bottom left.

- Yes, a budget should be included in the application, the grant proposal should clearly state how it connects to one of the purposes of the grant and include how you will measure the success of your project.
- Let us know when you might be working in partnership with another church or something, especially when your application makes it clear your project needs more than \$5000. Just let us know who your partnership is with or if your congregation is supplementing the amount. This is important because the application is going to our reviewers who are going to be trying to figure out will this be successful and if we see an extra \$10,000, and we don't have any idea where it's coming from, they may say well we

don't think this is going to be successful and we shouldn't Grant this \$5,000. So if you identify where the rest of the money is coming from that would be very helpful

- Some people don't ask for the full \$5000. Some people ask for a thousand or some people ask for 500. There are different levels depending on the needs of their proposal.
- Additionally, receipts as well as pictures should be submitted with reports.

I'm not the best writer but whenever I do something like this, I have a good friend to read it because if it doesn't make sense to them, then when I send it into a group it's not going to make sense to them and they're going to put it aside. We don't want that to happen. So, if you're doing it by yourself, even with someone else, make sure more than one set of eyes reviews your application.

The Grant application process is already open so you can submit tonight, but definitely by December 5th. The goal is for you to know by the end of the year whether you have received a grant.

If for some reason you couldn't get into the application, please email nationalconvocation@disciples.org so we can make sure that it is accessible to everyone.

We really do want to use this to advance the work and Ministry and creativity of the black church and so please do spread the word to churches in your regions and your community. We would love to support a variety of projects for men, women, children, youth, outreach, education, etc. We've had people to get support to go to conferences. We've had people to get support for training and development. We've got people to tell us that they're improving their technology and so forth in the church.

Is it possible to apply and utilize the Grant in more than one area in the same church? So, for instance, if we wanted to do something for our elderly population but also wanted to do something for young people. Could we apply and provide two different reasons for the grant? That's a very good question. It hasn't been done before, but you never know until you try it, or you might decide which one is more important at this time and focus on that one program. However, even if it's never been done before, there's no rule that says you cannot do it.

If the application is coming from one church, should we submit multiple applications for the two different projects or should we do one application with multiple projects? Complete different applications because the focus might be different on one as opposed to the other, and we want the reviewers to really focus on what this one says and not have other stuff floating in and out. I suggest that you would need to do more than one application.

Depending on how many applications we get, we're going to Grant funds to them. We have a certain amount we give each year and right now I do not know the amount but that's something that the Christian Church Foundation helps us decide. It doesn't hurt to submit your application or multiple applications for different projects. You might identify which is the major one you

really want to do but if there are funds left over and if it's a good project, I see no reason why you would not apply.

Thank you all so much for logging in tonight! We hope this was helpful for you. Again, the application process and everything is on Nationalconvocation.org slash BDEF. Just click on BDEF grant and if you have any questions after tonight, just send us an email at National Convocation at disciples.org.

Lastly, do not keep it to yourself! Please do spread the word and thank you all so much for taking the time to show up tonight (or read this transcript)!