

# Presbytery of New Covenant Grant Application

Grant Source: Please read the purpose/qualifications of the grant carefully, then make your selection. Fill out the grant application form completely and accurately. Use N/A or none in those blanks that do not apply to your project. Separate forms are required for each project request.

- ✓ Vision Initiative: Priority is given to projects that increase the overall membership of New Covenant Presbytery. The increase may be the result of new church development, redevelopment of established churches, general outreach to unchurched individuals or other approaches consistent with the mission of the Presbytery. *PLEASE NOTE: Vision Initiative grant applicants will generally be expected to raise at least half the cost of the grant-supported activity, with grant funds providing the balance.*
- Lynn Johnson Social Justice: Funds are to be used for social justice issues, particularly for issues concerning equality and inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation. Maximum grant is \$2000.
- Outreach: Projects should passionately engage and support local and global mission efforts in order to be God's redemption to a hurting world. Maximum grant is \$2000.
- Peacemaking: Projects are to nurture and equip God's people as peacemakers for the sake of peace in the world. Maximum grant is \$2000.
- Elder Care: Projects should provide care for the elderly and senior citizens. Maximum grant is \$1000.

Title of Project: Tuesday Topic Class- Tema del Martes **(Revised to Community Class)**

Organization Name: St. Thomas Presbyterian Church (STPC) Outreach Committee

Organization Address: 14100 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas

Organization Telephone/FAX: +1 (281) 497-4846

Name of Principal Contact: Bryan Wambui **(Bryan stepped down as Moderator due to other commitments.)**

Email Address of Principal Contact: guchu.bryan@yahoo.com

Telephone/FAX of Principal Contact: 832-310-5607

Description of Organization: Host inclusive, informative, beneficial and enjoyable topics on Tuesdays (am and pm) at least twice per month to diverse member and non-member attendees who live within a three-mile radius of STPC.

Amount of Grant for which you are applying: \$2,000

Date of approval by Session or Board: April 8, 2019

When are the funds needed to implement the project? August 2019

What are the other sources of funding? STPC Outreach Committee budget of \$1,000, in-kind services for teachers teaching for free, STPC classroom facilities and materials for some classes.

Has this organization applied for a grant in the past? Yes

If yes, from what grant were funds awarded, and when? In 2016, grant used for the STPC 'Neighbor House' and was later renamed 'The Harbor school Houston,' see <https://harborschoolhouston.org/>.

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## 1. General Description of Activity for Grant including:

- a. a description of the project: Create a new class entitled *Tuesday Topic Class (Class)* as a cooperative project (include nearby religious institutions, community, schools and more) to provide practical use topics for STPC members and non-members by professionals in the topic area. Classes on one topic may last one class period (1 to 3 hours) while other classes may last three Tuesdays in a row. TTC will partner with another nearby Christian institution on hosting classes. Classes will be held in STPC most of the time and the rest at the other Christian institution. Some classes will be held during the day while the rest are at night. The organization for Class will be from a sub-committee entitled *Tuesday Topic Committee (TTC)* of the *Outreach Committee*. It is possible STPC members have talents to host one or more classes for free and other professionals will be hired (or donate their time) to give remaining classes. The TTC will provide two members for each class to start with a prayer, have Christian inspirational moment (e.g., scriptures, story, theologian writing) and introduce the class teacher. TTC members and STPC members will foster relationships with non-STPC member attendees. Topics being considered include:
1. Parenting (e.g., parenting pre-schooler (or any age); parents going through a divorce – *Children Cope, Escape, Centro Infantil De Pelchin*)
  2. Art and/or craft classes (e.g., sewing, needlepoint, painting)
  3. Social justice training (e.g., classes taught by *American Friends Service Committee*)
  4. Legal (e.g., immigration, wills, workplace issues)
  5. Elder care (e.g., know your boundaries, communication)
  6. Woodworking and household project do-it-yourself lessons
  7. Financial (e.g., taxes, loans, retirement planning)
  8. End of life preparations (e.g., will up to date, what to say before they die, memorial service preparations)
  9. Dietician recommendations for healthy meals
  10. Cooking (e.g., single-family healthy meals)
  11. Ancient oils and their uses
- b. project budget: \$4,000
- c. the target population to be reached: STPC is in the middle of mixed ethnic and socio-economic population within a three-mile radius. This class will provide a variety of topics to meet the interest of our community. The TTC will create a survey and ask STPC members to take the survey. Additionally, TTC (and STPC volunteers) will walk door-to-door in the community to inform the neighborhood about the classes and orally give a survey of the neighbor's needs and record answers on an iPad or clipboard survey. Class topics will be determined by these surveys. TTC will locate teachers to teach the classes. In anticipation of providing topics to Spanish speaking neighbors, we plan to include a Spanish translator for each class.
- d. the desired outcome: The desired outcomes include the following. STPC members get to know its neighbors and team with a nearby Christian institution on these classes. We pray that 10 percent of the attendees visit STPC's worship services at least once and 5 percent become members over time.
- e. names of those who will be involved in administering or otherwise carrying out the work of the project or program: Bryan Wambui (TTC Moderator), Karina Andrade, Anabelle Ortiz, Jim Fitch and Wendy Lewis.

## 2. Explain how the activity meets the grant guidelines (on page one) and the Presbytery's Six Themes listed below:

- a. *Free flowing and extensive communication between congregations and among congregations and Presbytery.*

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STPC has not yet researched if other churches provided this type of class but will coordinate with Presbytery about this possibility. Plans will include teaming with a nearby Christian institution (CIT) in this endeavor. Classes may be taught some of the time in the other religious institution(s). Church member skills (talents) evaluations will be requested of church members and team religious institutions, assessed and vetted to match members to teach a class(es). Classes will be marketed to nearby community through mailers, emails, church e-newsletters and posting flyers. STPC will provide a webpage for the Class providing schedule of classes topics, locations etc.

- b. Extensive and year-round leadership development opportunities for Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, church staff, and congregations in general. It will be an opportunity for STPC members and CIT to 'pay-it forward' to the community by leading one or more classes. TTC will provide class attendees and teachers a one-page survey to grade various aspects of the class and write comments and suggestions. The TTC will record survey data in a Google Doc website for easy access by all TTC members and Presbytery to address feedback thereby improving the class over time.
- c. Using electronic collaboration and communication tools so that congregations and Presbytery can interact with one another without the need for extensive travel. Collaboration and communication will occur in a new Google Doc website as well as via email and a hyperlink to STPC's Class webpage containing the class schedule.
- d. Extensive and year-round opportunities to engage in service, mission, and evangelism. We want to reach out, to minister, to feed, to clothe, to "you name it." Our goals are to hold these classes for the benefit and/or edification of the nearby community as well as establish a rapport with the nearby community that STPC is a caring and welcoming place to gather together. If we manage the challenges of hosting these classes and, God willing, stir the hearts and minds of class attendees, then it may lend itself to discussions about our faith, church, worship and participation in other STPC programs and ministries.
- e. Empowering the Presbytery to do our work closer to our congregations. The TTC will look to Presbytery for some resources (e.g., teachers, class topics) and class locations other than STPC (e.g., nearby CIT and in other local Presbyterian Churches).
- f. Emphasizing the "Good News" of the PC(USA) and our Presbytery so we can communicate the "Good News" to our communities. The Class 'Good New' will mostly be conveyed by example rather than verbal means. However, classes will begin with a short prayer and 3-minute maximum inspirational communication (e.g., what is a Presbyterian, inspiration quotes from Christian scholars, bible verses). Where possible, one of the TTC members may provide Good News conversation starters for the socializing that may occur before, during and/or after the class.

3. How does this project contribute to the ministry of the presbytery? Attendees may become interested in and start participating in STPC's worship service and other outreach ministries. TTC members will pray for the teacher and attendees before each class for God's blessing on them and their enjoyment of the class. Additionally, TTC members may periodically request attendees to share any prayer requests the TTC members could put on their daily prayer list.

4. How will the success of the project be measured? When attendance increases overtime from 10 to 50 attendees in six months. If STPC member's leading a class provide feedback that they experienced God's countenance while providing the gifts and talents to attendees. If non-member professional teachers and attendees provide positive ratings and feedback on the surveys provided at the end of each class.

Printed Name of Authorized Signer: Rev. Dr. Nova Fitch & Rev. Jonathan Britt

Signature and Date: Rev. Dr. Nova Fitch (4/29/19) Rev. Jonathan Britt

Date sent: April 29, 2019

*Please confirm that your application has been received.*

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**APPLICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 30. PLEASE SEND ELECTRONICALLY TO FORBES BAKER ([fbaker@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:fbaker@pbyofnewcovenant.org))**

*Please note that the project should be completed by June 30 of the following calendar year. If the project is not completed by the deadline, please submit an interim progress report. Any funds not used for the purpose described in the application should be returned to the presbytery. Project completion reports regarding the use of the grant funds are due by February 15 of the following year. Reports should be sent to Forbes Baker ([FBAKER@PBYOFNEWCOVENANT.ORG](mailto:FBAKER@PBYOFNEWCOVENANT.ORG)).*

REVISED FEBRUARY 14, 2019