

FAQ'S FOR THE HOPE FUND

1. What is the purpose of the Hope Fund?

The first purpose of the Hope Fund is to raise money that can be used for ministries of innovation and societal impact among us. So many of our churches innovated in many different ways during the Pandemic, and we want to use the knowledge that we have gained for the future. The money will also be used for new ministry among us. So many people in Vermont don't go to church, and we want to share God's love with them by building relationships. We all know of great ideas in our churches and in our Conference that just need some financial backing to come to reality, and the Hope Fund will help make that happen.

The second purpose is to give our churches hope for the future. We all know that the pandemic has been very challenging for all of us, on top of our society's increasing secularization. The creation of the Hope Fund will remind us that God is not done with us yet.

2. How can we as a Conference establish a Hope Fund and ask for money? Our church is having trouble paying the bills as it is.

Obviously, not everyone in the Conference will be able to give to the Hope Fund. But let us give the people of our Conference and State the chance to give if they wish. Whatever money we do raise will go right back to our churches-100%.

3. What is the point of having new ministries when so many of our current churches are struggling?

Research shows that new churches and ministries have a better chance of connecting with people that don't go to church than established ones. Also, new ministries can try out of the box ideas and see which ones work, and established churches can learn from them.

4. How will the money from the Hope Fund be distributed if the Conference votes to establish it?

The Board of Directors of the Conference will appoint a granting group of 4 members of the Conference and a staff person to distribute the money. They will also create the application process, which will be simple to use. All the money will be given away within 10 years.

5. Why should I or my church or Association give to the Hope Fund?

If the Vermont Conference votes to establish the Hope Fund, you should give to the Hope Fund if you believe that God is not done with the churches or people of Vermont. You should give if you want to give the Church of Jesus Christ more of a future in Vermont. You should give if you want to see lives transformed by God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit in Vermont.