



Healthy Congregations

Supporting Great Plains UMC leadership and engagement in improving local congregational and community health

2026 Grant Renewal Application Form – Print Version

While we encourage completing the renewal form online where possible (you can even use your phone), this printable version can be helpful to support team discussion and planning - and can be:

- Used later to fill out the online form,
- Scanned and emailed, or
- Mailed in paper form.

To support the renewal process, you will need to have a copy of your most recent program plan(s) handy. These may be accessed through the online [HC team website](#), or by [requesting via email](#).

Renewal requirements

- Have at least two active team members who have completed the HC orientation / certification training
- Complete the reflection process and form
- Review and update your program plan(s) and form
- Submit forms by June 30, 2026

Refresher information about the HC program, including the 2025 updates:

Grant structure

After team orientation training and initial program planning*, teams are eligible to apply annually for \$1,500 continuation grants and are eligible for additional one-time \$100/new trained member bonus grants (members trained from April 10, 2025 onward). Participation also gives access to additional [special grant and program opportunities](#).

Planning and review cycle overview

Healthy Congregations is structured around an annual cycle of discovery, planning, reflection, and renewal.

- Discover gifts, gaps, and opportunities
- Plan your approach and set goals
- Recruit partners as needed
- Implement your program
- Remember, reflect, rediscover, realign – make any program plan changes as needed, considering changes in your community, the external environment, and team priorities and goals
- As you reflect, share successes, challenges, and stories
- Apply for next year of funding

Highlights of 2025 updates, and additional program notes:

Grant increased; minimum team size reduced to 2 trained members; only one program plan required; needs assessment requirement discontinued. Learn more (includes videos): <https://healthfund.org/a/hc2025updates/>

- We're at your service to answer questions, offer consultation and advice, and help you every step of the way.
- HC grant funding may be used for any purpose in support of your planned programs, at the team's discretion. Additional special opportunity funding may be restricted to purposes specific to those offerings.

Questions? Need help?

[See the FAQ](#) and contact Jackie Biggs, Program Officer, jackie@healthfund.org | 620-662-8586.

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund

PO Box 1384, Hutchinson, KS 67504-1384

620.662.8586 | 620.662.8597(fax) | info@healthfund.org





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Healthy Congregations Program Renewal Form – Print Version

INSTRUCTIONS

- This can serve as a printable worksheet for later entry into our [online renewal system](#), or sent via email/mail.
- Complete the contact information and team updates section below.
- With your prior year program plans handy, complete the reflection process and form
- Using learnings and insights from reflection process, develop or review/update your program plan(s)
- **Enter online, scan/email, or mail completed form** to United Methodist Health Ministry Fund (see footer)

Great Plains United Methodist Church Information

Church Name:					
Mailing Address:					
City:	State:	Zip:			
District:	County:				
Phone:					
Email:					
Pastor:					
Does your church have a Health & Wellness Committee?	Yes		No		Our HC Team will serve this role

Healthy Congregations Team Leader (fields marked * required)

*Name:			
*Phone:			
*Email:			
*Mailing Addr.:			
*City:	*State:	*Zip:	

List all active Healthy Congregations team member names (as of time of this renewal)

Are there other team changes? (retirements, moves, etc. – e.g., to remove from the Health Fund’s team records)

Any additional comments or questions:

We agree to fully continue participation in the Healthy Congregations Program for the coming year

HC Team Leader _____ Date _____

Renewal Forms Preparer: _____ Date _____

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Renewal Step 1: Reflection – Celebration, Learning, and Sharing

Instructions: keeping your 2025 Program Plan(s) handy for reference, for **each of those 2025 programs**, complete a copy of the below Reflection form. We strongly recommend doing this first, then applying the resulting insights and learnings when updating your program plan(s) in step 2. **Make additional copies of the form as needed for each program.**

Note: The reflection process is a key component of the annual Healthy Congregations program cycle. By helping your team revisit the experiences of the previous year’s work, the reflection process is designed to support celebration and sharing of successes, learning from challenges, and program plan realignment as needed based on changes in your community, the external environment, and team priorities and goals.

2025 Program name:

2025 Program budget:

2025 Program focus – the change or area you sought to address:

2025 Priority populations:

2025 Goals – your ultimate desired change:

Step 1: Remember

Share the experiences your team, participants, congregation, and community had with your program’s activities – how it went.

What did you learn?

What strengths and assets did your team discover in your congregation and community through this work?



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Step 2: Respond

Did you achieve what you had expected?

How did your actual outcomes compare to the outcome measures you defined in your program plan?

How did the funds spent compare (same/more/less) to your estimate for this program? Comment as desired.

Briefly describe which of the remembered stories above were energizing and exciting, and which made your team and/or partners feel resistance or drained.



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Step 3: Realign

Do you feel your program moved you closer to your goals – your ultimate desired changes?

Briefly describe the level of continued passion among your team members and partners for this program, and your team's decision on whether to continue this program's activities for another year or move in a new direction.

Step 4: Sharing

Share success stories from your work over the past year (including special program opportunities, if applicable). Include pictures, publicity, short videos, etc. [email items to misc@healthfund.org]



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Renewal Step 2: Reviewing and Updating your Program Plan(s)

Instructions: Your Program Plan will guide next year's work to help your team achieve its goals. Guided by the learnings and insights from your Reflection process, use the form below to update (or newly develop) your program plan. With the 2025 program updates, only one program plan is now required, but you are welcome to include additional program plans – **add pages as needed**.

To help you develop or refine your plan, we encourage you to consider:

- Gifts, assets, and gaps you've identified in your congregation and community
- What most excites your health ministry team; where is the most energy and enthusiasm
- Where you see the strongest opportunities to make a difference using your team's existing strengths
- Existing community health improvement efforts you may be able to join and strengthen
- New opportunities you see to partner with community organizations and leaders to strengthen impact
- What you see as essential to reaching your goals and measuring your impact (assets, advice, data, training, volunteers, facilities, supplies, etc.)

Program Plan Part 1

Program Name _____

Choose a short descriptive name for your program

Estimated budget \$ _____

Estimate HC funds your team will allocate to implement this plan for the upcoming year. If you have identified additional funds for the program, share the amount and source(s) of those funds. Keep in mind that your annual HC grant is \$1,500.

Program focus – the change or area you want to address:

Briefly describe the gaps and/or opportunities you plan to focus on.

Priority populations

Briefly outline the populations (e.g., children & youth, older adults, community members with limited resources, families in crisis, etc.) you plan to focus on.

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Goals – your ultimate desired change

Describe briefly, but as specifically as possible, the big-picture changes your team aims to achieve through this program. Include the long-term lasting impact you hope to achieve over time, and your intermediate goals for the coming year.

Program Plan Part 2

Changes for this year – based on reflection and realignment process

If this is a continuation of an existing program (versus a new program), please detail what you plan to change from last year and why. This should include changes based on findings from your annual reflection and realignment review, those related to changes in your community, the external environment, and team priorities and goals – or even just areas of improvement you see based on experience. (question not applicable for new team first-year programs).

Contributors to success – partnerships and assets

List partners and community assets your team has identified that can help you achieve program goals and describe how they fit into your work. Consider organizations, businesses, or faith communities already working toward these goals, as well as additional community partners and assets which could play roles in supporting program success. Likewise, consider assets among your team and team ideas to enhance, expand, or develop new activities supporting the program focus. Note whether these partnerships are established or how they will be developed, and how assets will be connected with the program.



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Planned activities, steps, and timelines

Briefly describe your team's planned activities for the coming year to achieve progress toward program goals. Include how much you will do, a timeline for the activities, and a breakdown of key action steps your team will take to move forward.

Example activities (for an example focus of: Increase access to healthy food for the community):

Activity - Expand options for fresh fruits and vegetables through community gardens and local partnerships

Activity - Add more food pantry hours by organizing and training volunteers

Activity - Provide educational sessions on preparing affordable and healthy meals

Program Plan Part 3

Desired outcomes – what will happen as a result of your activities?

What is expected to happen as a result of your planned activities? Include specifics (numbers, percentage change, etc.) where possible.

How will you keep track of progress so that you are able to celebrate success?

Describe how you plan to measure progress toward your chosen goals. Where possible, describe how you will measure intermediate progress over the coming year, as well as how you will determine progress toward your longer-term (multi-year) program goals. Example methods include maintaining records, conducting pre and post surveys and/or interviews, tracking participation, or comparing against baseline data.

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