



Petree Grant

INFORMATION

Background: Margaret E. Petree of El Reno left a portion of her estate to the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation when she died in 1994. Her endowment produces earnings that are annually distributed to Oklahoma City University, her home church in El Reno, scholarships for El Reno high school students and students at Redlands Community College, and maintenance of the Petree Plaza in El Reno. Ten percent (10%) of the earnings is reserved for grants to be awarded by a committee of lay members from the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation board of trustees. This annual tithe of her endowment earnings has had great influence on the institutions and agencies of the church in Oklahoma. Since inception in 1996, the Petree Committee has awarded hundreds of grants totaling more than \$2.36 million.

Purpose: Miss Petree's will clearly states these grants are to be used for "the use of those institutions, agencies and nonprofit corporations administered, managed or supervised by The Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church and which are operated primarily for any one or more of the care of *children, youth, the aging or needy and disadvantaged.*"

Read this paragraph carefully: The Petree funds are limited. The Petree Grant Committee does not have the resources to purchase vans, build buildings and playground equipment, or purchase electronic equipment for churches of the Conference. Every effort is made to encourage promising, innovative projects, programs, and ministries that make the church and community better, inspire, and serve to bring *children, youths, the aging, or marginalized* into a closer relationship with God, their church and their community. These are usually start-up grants, or grants that will lift your ministry to a new level, not sustaining grants. Most are limited to onetime awards with a maximum of \$10,000. The Committee favorably views grant requests that document the ability to garner matching funds.

What will not be funded? The Committee must make subjective choices with the information you provide relative to all the applications that are submitted. Partial grants may be awarded, if resources allow. Sometime applicants are encouraged to come back with different considerations.

These activities will probably not be funded:

- Rapidly depleting assets such as vehicles.
- Bricks and mortar. A stand-alone request for construction or renovation will not be funded. The Committee is better able to focus on programming and ministry. The Committee wants to make a difference with these grants, and there are not enough resources for construction costs.
- A project, program or ministry that does not demonstrate broad support and/or shows no promise of continuing or expanding beyond the term of the grant.
- Grants for staff salaries, endowments, or administrative/operating expenses. For example, a grant may be awarded to purchase curriculum for a new project, but not for the salary of the teacher or to pay for air conditioning the building.
- Multiple applications from the same church or agency. Please choose one project or ministry.
- A project, program or ministry that does not have oversight by the local church or The Oklahoma United Methodist Conference.
- Applications that are incomplete, or received past the deadline will be returned.

The easiest programs for the Petree Committee to assist are those that fill multiple criteria. Call the Foundation at 405-525-6863 or 800-259-6863 if you have any questions.

Allow yourself plenty of time to obtain the necessary approval of your pastor and especially of your District Superintendent.

