



The Atlanta Decatur Oxford (ADOX) District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM) will use Fresh Expression as an opportunity to see if a candidate is capable of future ministry and help his or her sponsoring church move from membership to mission and invitation to impact in the local community.

As [Fresh Expressions of Church](#) serve people outside the walls of the church through listening to them in their context and connecting them with Jesus, ADOX dCOM will use it as a prerequisite for interviewing with the dCOM to become a certified candidate.

When a person meets with District Superintendent after expressing a desire for either the local pastor or full connection elder tracks, the Superintendent will recommend that the inquiring candidate applies for a Fresh Expression grant (page 2).

Available through the NGA Conference, the grant will allow the candidate to work with his or her pastor and church to create a fruitful expression of the church outside the walls. **Additional funding (max of \$1000 while funds last) is available to from the ADOX District to accompany the matching funding from the local church and Conference (up to \$2,500 if church matches) to a total of \$6,000 in matching funds.** During the Fresh Expressions experience, the District Superintendent will focus on the inquiring candidate's development of the ability to:

1. **Gather** new people
2. **Connect** with people
3. **Inspire** people to belong to something bigger than themselves
4. **Adapt** to different cultural assumptions about needs, ministry, and mission.
5. **Learn** from experimenting and Failure

The Fresh Expressions process can be from 3 to 6 months with monthly updates submitted to the District Superintendent. At the completion of the Fresh Expressions, the candidate will meet with the District Superintendent to determine next steps for ministry as a local pastor or full connection elder.



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Fresh Expressions of the North Georgia Conference Grant Application

Fresh Expressions grants are available through the North Georgia Conference (NGC). Go to www.ngumc.org/freshexpressions for more information. After you have learned all about the “*Fresh Expressions of Church*” and you’ve prayerfully discerned your potential role as a *Fresh Expressions* Leader, please complete this application and submit it to your pastor for consideration.

Following is the review process for *Fresh Expressions* Grants:

1. Applicant completes the application on-line – Steps 1-4.
2. Upon completion, the applicant e-mails the application to the Sr. Pastor of his/her church. If necessary, a meeting should be scheduled to review the plan.
3. If the Pastor **does not** approve the application, the applicant will make the necessary revisions and e-mail the revised application to the Sr. Pastor or will discontinue the process.
4. If the Sr. Pastor **does** approve the application, the pastor will then e-mail the application (stating approval in the e-mail) to the Director of Congregational Development **and** a non-staff lay member of the church confirming the church’s commitment to match funds (i.e., SPRC Chair, Administrative Council Chair, Lay Leader).
5. Once an e-mail approving the church’s commitment is received by the Director of Congregational Development from the lay member, the application will be e-mailed to the District Superintendent and the Conference *Fresh Expressions* Grant Application Review Sub-Committee. *The Conference will not consider a grant without the approval from the Sr. Pastor and confirmation that the church will provide a matching grant.*
6. The conference sub-committee will review the application. If approved, the sub-committee will recommend approval from the full Congregational Development Board. Grants are typically dispersed within two weeks after Board approval.

Please note that applications for Fresh Expressions grants will not automatically constitute funding.

Step 1 – Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Church Home /District _____

Sr. Pastor: _____

Step 2 – Cast Your Vision and Tell Your *Fresh Expressions* Story

As an attachment to this application, write a brief narrative about the vision/story for your *Fresh Expression*. Remember that your *Fresh Expression* is meant to complement your church`s ministry (not compete with it), so that your congregation can better reach those within your local community for Christ.

Make sure to include following items:

- Project Name (example: Canoe Church, Yoga Church, Bar Church, etc.)
- Timeline of activities and schedule(s)
- Plan to monitor/report progress
- Names, positions and duties of people on your support team
- Group(s) you are trying to reach
- Meeting place
- Plan to measure the fruitfulness
- Plan to develop Christ centered relationships that may (or may not) be connected to your church
- Itemized budget

Step 3 –Grant Amount Request

Fresh Expression grants are “matching” up to \$5000 per request. To be eligible for a *Fresh Expressions* grant, your local church must commit to ½ of the amount being requested, otherwise the NGC will not consider your request. Grants can be requested up to twice (2X) per calendar year. A progress report indicating growth of the *Fresh Expressions* ministry must accompany any subsequent request which cannot be submitted within 4 (four) months of the previous request.

Total Amount Requested: \$ _____

Step 4 – Sign and Date the Application

Name: _____ Pastor`s Name: _____

Date: _____ Date _____

Step 5 - E-mail the Application and Attachments to: bbarnwell@ngumc.org.

Conference Use Only

To be completed by the Office of Congregational Development

Date Received from Pastor: _____ Date Received from Lay Member: _____

Date sent to Sub-Committee: _____ Date Submitted to Entire Board: _____

Director, Congregational Development

Date

Chair, Congregational Development

Date

cc: District Superintendent