**Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations (TPIRC)**

A Ministry of the Illinois Conference UCC

Funded by the Lilly Endowment for Religion

**APPLICATION FOR PASTORS AND CHURCHES**

First Name: Last Name:

Email: Phone:

Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip:

Church Name:

Key Church Member-Lay Leader Contact:

Email: Phone:

Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip:

**On a separate page, please respond to the following questions.**

1. Please describe the size and demographics of your congregation. Do they match the description on the reverse side of this application?
2. Have you received a LEEAP or other grant in the last five years?
3. For the Pastor; do you intend to remain in this congregation for the duration of the program?
4. What excites you about this program?
5. For the Congregation; do you understand that there is a cost to participating in this program, and do you agree to participate in and remain in this program for the duration of the grant, approximately 5 years?

Signature (Pastor) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Congregation) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**EXPECTATIONS OF PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS**

**Introductory Essentials about the TPIRC Ministry Program**

* Involves a Pastor and 3-5 lay leaders from 45 Illinois Conference Churches
* Qualifying Pastors are those: new in ministry or bi-vocational or serving a declining congregation (decreasing attendance, aging, diminished financial resources).
* TPIRC will provide participating pastors and churches four strategic resource activities:
  + A trained and certified Clergy Coach for each Pastor, meeting monthly
  + A Clergy Community of Practice support/learning group for each pastor meeting 10 months of the year.
  + An Annual Learning Summit 2 day gathering of top keynote speakers and practical workshops for TPIRC Pastors and 3-5 lay leaders from each church
  + Cohorts comprised of 5-7 TPIRC churches meeting semi-annually for networking and resource sharing
* These resources, along with TPIRC coordination and administration are supported with a $1,000,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment for a five year period which began in January 2019.
* Participating churches will pay a “buy-in” fee of $500 annually. The only other TPIRC costs are time and travel.

**Participation Expectations**

* Pastors will meet (incl. possibly online) monthly with a Clergy Coach at no cost.
* Pastors will also come together in Clergy Community of Practice groups 10 months of the year at no cost
* Pastors help select 3-5 lay leaders to participate in TPIRC
* Pastors participate in written and conversational quantitative and qualitative surveys in the 1st, 3rd and 5th years of the grant period.
* Pastors and 3-5 lay leaders will attend a two day Annual Learning Summits (2nd Friday and Saturday of September)at no cost
* Pastors and lay leaders will participate in two cohort gatherings of 6-7 churches annually.

Please send completed application to Rev. Michelle Hughes, Associate Conference Minister for Revitalization and Stewardship by mail (Illinois Conference UCC, 1840 Westchester Blvd., Westchester, IL 60154) or email [ilconfmichelle@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfmichelle@gmail.com) **by March 15, 2020.**