The Northeast Fellowship
of Congregational Christian Churches

Hurting Churches Fund (HCF) Grant Information

(This application was updated and approved by the HCF Committee in October 2025)

Overview

The HCF grant was created in response to the Mohegan Congregational Church gift to the Northeast Fellowship, with the intention that the Northeast Fellowship would manage applications and distributions to qualifying Northeast Fellowship churches. The grant is available to churches who are unable to meet the cost of A) critical building maintenance and repair needs; or B) ADA compliance and other access needs, from their existing resources. Personnel, ministry, and other need categories will not be approved.

Qualifications

- Active participation in the Northeast Fellowship
- Demonstrable viability of the church
- Requesting church's endowment (if any) is insufficient to cover the need

Process

1) The governing board of the church votes to begin the application process
2) The requesting Church submits an application to the Northeast Fellowship's Executive Director (Dan Dzikowicz, dan@nefellowship.org). The application details can be found below.
3) The HCF Committee reviews the application. During this stage, a member of the HCF Committee may visit the church to review the need.
4) The HCF Committee either denies the grant request, asks for additional information, or makes a recommendation to the Northeast Fellowship Executive Committee to approve the grant request.
5) The Northeast Fellowship Executive Committee votes on the grant request.

6) If the Executive Committee votes to grant the request, the church shall be required to sign the following statement:

> _____ *Church gratefully acknowledges receiving funds from the Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches (NFCCC). We agree to use this money for the sole purpose(s) for which it was given. In addition, we agree to follow in the "Congregational Way" and remain an active member of the NFCCC for a minimum of 10 years. The Church also agrees to communicate the progress of the project (including project start and completion) to the Executive Committee or Executive Director in a timely manner.*

7) The funds will be distributed to the church via check.

Please note: Given the meeting frequency of the HCF Committee and the Northeast Fellowship Executive Committee, this process may take several months. The Executive Committee typically does not meet during the months of May, July, October, and December.

Application Details

To submit an application for the HCF Grant, please provide the following information in a letter format (Word or PDF) on the requesting church's letterhead.

- Name of the church
- Names, roles, phone numbers, and email addresses of 3-4 relevant church leaders (e.g., senior minister, moderator, council chair, trustee chair, deacon board chair, clerk, etc.). ***These people also must be cc'd when submitting the application***
- The amount being requested ($20,000 max)
- Concisely and sufficiently describe the following:
    - The need(s) which prompted the grant request
    - The church's membership and its regular attendance (numerically)
    - The church's participation level in the Northeast Fellowship
    - The ministry viability of the church, based on its current direction
    - The financial viability of the church, based on its current direction
    - The current endowment (if any) and how it is being used
    - Other church funds which will be used
    - Other avenues of outside financial support which have been (or are being) pursued

- - How the church might become more sustainable in the future
  - Any additional information which may be relevant and/or which might support the request
- Name and signature of the person completing the application with their role, phone number, and email address

Also attach the following documents:

- Minutes of the governing board showing the positive vote to begin the HCF grant process
- Quotes, estimates, and other project related documents
- Annual reports (including financials) from the past three years
- Current year financials
- Additional photos and documents which may be relevant and/or which might support the request