

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



We are a church that makes disciples — across the street and around the world.

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**"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 Jn 3:18 NIV**

Greetings from the Serve Team of Downtown First United Methodist Church!

Thank you for your interest in partnering with Downtown. Jesus taught us to put love into action. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matt. 25:35-36, 40. We welcome the opportunity to partner with those who are seeking to fulfill these great endeavors.

With God's blessing, Downtown has been able to support a variety of missions over the years. We know many worthy needs deserve financial support. Our congregation has many different interests and each parishioner may have personal interests as well. The Serve Team was created to examine the needs of our community and the interests of Downtown, devise a process for applicants and develop guidelines for deciding how to distribute the generous, but limited, financial gifts from our congregation. While these may be evolving tasks, we hope that all those involved find it helpful.

As your first step to seeking funding, we ask that you complete the appropriate application that will help us learn more about you, your organization and your service. If this is the first time you are seeking funding from Downtown, then complete the "Mission Funding Application for New Applicants". If you have previously received OR requested funding, then complete the "Mission Funding Application to Continue Funding or for Previously Funded Individual or Organization". Please read the application in its entirety before beginning its completion as it will help you organize your responses more thoroughly.

Directions for submitting your application are at the end of the applications. Applications must be submitted by December 1 for funding distributions in the following calendar year. At this time, the church budget should be approved and available funds should be known. As the applications are reviewed, the Serve Team will seek God's guidance and discernment to make our decisions to the best of our ability. We will look to Matt. 25:35-36 (above) and also may consider how the mission furthers self-development and self-reliance of those served. Our goal is to notify all applicants of the funding decision for their mission by January 15. Those who are awarded funding will be asked to provide a report on their use of funds and outcomes, even if still in progress, by October 1 of the year funds are received. Finally, should you have any questions with the application or process, please do not hesitate to email [serve@lextogether.org](mailto:serve@lextogether.org) for guidance.

We greatly appreciate your desire and work to bring God's kingdom to earth through your service. Again, thank you for all you do.

Prayerfully yours,

The Serve Team of Downtown