

NEW JERSEY SYNOD TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY LOAN FUND

Originally named the "Transitional Facilities Fund", The Transformational Ministry Loan Fund was established in 2004 as part of a legacy gift from Christ Lutheran Church in Ridgefield Park, NJ. The Fund was created to provide *"loans to congregations of the New Jersey Synod for the purpose of making renovations to existing facilities that will enable expanded ministry and service opportunities."* This fund continues to serve its purpose by providing funding to congregations looking toward revitalization and/or expansion efforts, especially in situations where space may need to be repurposed in order to support new opportunities for ministry.

The Fund has, when appropriate, also been used to support requests in situations where congregations have faced a significant outlay of funds in order to maintain or repair their property and were not able to obtain those funds through other means.

In order to help ensure the congregation and synod partner for success, congregations interested in applying for a loan from the Fund must provide a detailed description of the request as well as congregation financial information using the Transformational Ministry Loan Application. A written letter of request to the Office of the Bishop and the Fiscal Management, Administration and Property Committee must accompany the application. This letter and the application should be sent on behalf of the Congregation Council and signed by the Council President and the Pastor.

All loans will be assessed a 1% non-compounded interest rate and are not to exceed 10 years unless otherwise negotiated with Fiscal Management. A proposed repayment plan/strategy should be included in the space provided on the Application.

The Fiscal Management, Administration and Property Committee will consider and, as appropriate, approve loan applications on a first come first served basis as long as the Synod Treasurer deems the necessary funds are available. An identification of the congregation's current stewardship and overall financial situation will be considered as part of all requests.

All loan requests must also follow appropriate congregation constitutional and by-law requirements for approvals and estimates. Loans in excess of \$10,000 must include at least 2 competitive bids where capital improvements and/or repairs are included in the request, if not already required by congregation by-laws. Synod Property Management staff can be made available to assist in this process if needed.