

Presbytery of Yellowstone Mission Grant Application

Project name: Dialogues for Deeper Understanding

Sponsoring organization: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Peacemaking Task Group

Amount requested: \$2000.00

Grant from: Equip and Encourage Fund

Brief description of project:

Dialogues for Deeper Understanding is a project which seeks to restore civil public discourse through an on-going series of community forums. Our intention is to host several dialogues throughout the Billings community each year and address big issues which we face globally, nationally, regionally and locally, one civilized discussion at a time. We are in need of funds for task group members to become trained facilitators for potentially conflicting conversations. Funds will be used for a two-day training session led by Linda Gryczan from Mediation Works in Helena, Montana.

Goals and objectives of sponsoring organization and/or project:

The Peacemaking Task Group of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church seeks to:

- be obedient to Jesus Christ as it nurtures and equips God's people to be peacemakers
- bear witness to the love of God which flows to our neighbors
- help others understand that our faith helps us to perceive God's will through safe, constructive and loving dialogues
- begin to restore civility in dialogue through the Christian principles of patience, humility, integrity, and mutual respect

How will this project seek to involve the churches of the presbytery?

1. The Task Group would like to do a training during a Yellowstone Presbytery meeting that would prepare other presbyters to facilitate similar conversations. Our hope is that others would use this as a model to facilitate similar difficult discussions in their own communities and congregations.
2. We would like to help the presbytery discuss amendments that carry the potential for conflict, using this model of Deeper Understanding.
3. In addition, as participants are trained throughout the presbytery, people who show gifts for mediation could potentially be used by the PMT in its ministry to individual congregations in conflict.
4. As this is an unfolding project, we have not yet begun to see the possibilities this might hold for our churches. We are open to the Spirit's leading within Yellowstone Presbytery as we explore other possibilities together.

Please attach a previous year financial statement if this is an ongoing project.

The task group is newly formed and this is our first project.

Applicant name: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (Mary Davis)

Title: St. Andrew Presbyterian Task Group Member

Applicant address: 2523 Beartooth Dr., Billings, MT 59102

Phone: 406-560-3476

Applicant signature: *Mary Davis jm*

Date: 11/5/15

Please return to: Yellowstone Presbytery, 203B Haggerty Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715
Attn: Mission Committee