

PNW Annual Conference Budget & Microgrant Model

Adapting Our Ministries for a Changing World

Embracing a New Way of Budgeting

Last year, we began a bold move toward budgeting differently—more flexibly, equitably, and in alignment with our **Conference priorities** and the broader **Great Northwest (GNW) Area Priorities**.

We heard the call from the Bishop’s GNW Priorities Task Force to make funding more responsive to emerging ministry opportunities.

- Streamline access to funding and consolidate funding sources to support a movement of ideas to plans, to actions, to evaluations, and on to next iterations; and
- Try things, let go of what’s in the way, celebrate progress and leaders, learn through the process, apply learnings to future efforts, and affirm those who try new and different things.

A new budget presentation format was introduced, and valuable feedback is helping guide its continued evolution.

What’s Changing?

Our Legacy Budget Model...

- Began 12+ months before the budget year, making planning difficult.
- Locked funding into line items, restricting access for others.
- Left unspent funds are “trapped” with little recirculation.

What We’re Moving Toward:

- A **Ministry Opportunity Fund** within the budget.
- **Flexible funding** through a **granting model** open to Boards, Agencies, and grassroots groups.
- Emphasis on **timeliness, equity, and responsiveness**.
- Support for projects aligned with our **M.I.L.E.** (Mission, Inclusion, Leadership, Evangelism) and **Conference priorities** (Equity Anti-Racism, Youth/Young People, Housing/Hunger/Health, Climate Care, Discipleship).
- Gathering GNW funding resources into one collaborative application space (long-term goal)

New Granting Model

We will offer **three annual funding cycles**, allowing groups to submit visions for ministry work aligning with Conference priorities and M.I.L.E.

- **Micro-Seed Grants** (under \$5,000)
 - Easy application, minimal requirements
 - Great for “testing the waters”, forming partnerships, or seed funding

- **Project Grants**
 - For developing events, initiatives, or projects
 - Evaluated using an equity rubric focusing on:
 - Alignment with mission & priorities
 - M.I.L.E. engagement
 - Connectional and contextual impact (internal & external)
- → Reporting back on measurable outcomes and impact
- **Three Funding Cycles per year** (specific dates TBD)
 - September, early December, March/April

Timeline & Budget Approval

- **Fall 2025**

At the **special session**, we will nominate a ministry opportunity team to administer the micro-grant process.
- **Fall/Winter 2025-26**

Dates, timelines, application process, decision rubric, and testing will be developed using an equity lens in partnership with Ethnic Ministries and Hispanic Ministries leadership. Guidance, support resources and regular communication updates will be made.
- **Spring 2026**

We will return to the regular Annual Conference session for the **2027 budget** and pilot the first grant cycle.
- **Ongoing in 2026 and beyond**

Refinement of process and iterative expansion of funding sources as we repeat funding and budget cycles.