



Youth Service Fund

GIVE. CREATE. RECEIVE.

FACILITATOR GUIDE



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES
The United Methodist Church

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

The goal of **Give. Create. Receive.** is to show youth that they are an integral piece of the global United Methodist Church, and that through this connection, they are able to make a tremendous difference in the world. For decades, youth have been contributing and receiving grants from the Youth Service Fund, and this curriculum will delve into these three components that make the Youth Service Fund a ministry that is for, by, and with youth.

Young people have continuously proven to be extremely generous, and the Youth Service Fund would not exist without their monetary gifts given year after year. However, money alone is not what keeps Youth Service Fund alive. Youth are donating their time and effort to fundraise and using their creative energy to form projects that meet the needs of their community. Through the Youth Service Fund, youth are joining together to spread hope to their peers.

In these three sessions, your group will explore how the Youth Service Fund works, how to get involved, and how to see the impact being made around the world. In turn, the group will reflect on what it means to be generous, to serve others, and to give thanks.



Things To Know:

- Each session needs 45 minutes to an hour to complete.
- A person of any age can be the Facilitator; encourage youth to take part in leading.
- Internet access and the use of social media are incorporated into each session; if the majority of youth or the facilitator do not have access to the internet, be sure to make the appropriate changes to the session ahead of time.

PART 1: GIVE

Introduction:

Session one emphasizes what it means to live generously and how great things can be accomplished when a larger number of people are contributing what they have to give.

NEEDED MATERIALS:

- Paper, pencils
- Bibles
- Visual Chart for YSF Percentages (in TAKING ACTION section)
- Copies of pledge cards for offering

Opening Activity (15-20 minutes)

“RELIANT LEGS”

Purpose:

To show the strength in numbers and working together. When a seemingly impossible task lies ahead, the help of others may be the only way it can be accomplished.

How to Play:

Place a chair at the front of the room along with a small object on the floor a few feet away, something like a ball, a piece of paper, a pen or whatever is available. Then ask for a volunteer. This person needs to find a way to place the object in the chair **WITHOUT** using their arms or hands and **WITHOUT** any assistance from the rest of the group. Feel free to let a few others participate as well, and ask them to share their experience.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

- Was it more difficult than you imagined?
- Did watching other attempts help or hinder you?
- Aside from using your arms/hands, what would have made it easier?

Next, ask for two volunteers to work together, still without their arms/hands or the assistance of the rest of the group, and try again to place the object in the chair. After a couple of pairs have taken a turn, ask them to compare this experience to the previous one.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

- Was this method easier or more difficult?
- Did your partner have the same ideas as you?
- What is the benefit of working together as a team?

Reflection:

When working alone on a task, we are often limited in ways we cannot control. We may get stuck on an idea that isn't working, or we may not have the physical strength to do the necessary work. We may have worn the wrong shoes that day! However, when more people are working together and combining their ideas, new opportunities become available. We become stronger when we work as a team to accomplish our goals!

Discussion (15-20 minutes)

Topic: The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge & Contagious Generosity

Information:

In the summer of 2014, a social media craze took over the news and raised a huge amount of awareness and support for The ALS Association (a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting ALS, a neurodegenerative disease commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease). It was called the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. There is a short video compilation on YouTube by AFV that you can show; find it here: <https://youtu.be/ZrINrWsSgm8>. Then ask the group:

- How many of you have heard of or participated in this challenge?

In case anyone is unfamiliar with the challenge, here is some more information: The Ice Bucket Challenge was not a new concept. Many people, especially athletes, had accepted the dare to pour a bucket of icy cold water over their heads to show their support of a cause, which would be followed by nominating some of their friends and family to do the same thing. However, when a group of people directly impacted by ALS posted their videos online of accepting the Ice Bucket Challenge, the movement became exclusively tied to the ALS Association and grew to be immensely popular. All of a sudden, entire organizations and celebrities started posting their ALS Ice Bucket Challenge videos and continued to ask others to join them.

In a matter of months, a whopping \$115 million was donated to the ALS Association. In the previous year, the ALS Association's entire revenue was reported at roughly \$29 million, so in ALS Ice Bucket Challenge contributions alone, this total almost quadrupled! (All information acquired from www.alsa.org.)

Reflection:

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge was so extremely successful because of the huge number of people directly involved with giving to the ALS Association. Ask the group to think about and respond to these questions:

- Why do you think the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge became so popular?
- What would have been different if the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge did not include nominating specific people to take on the challenge?
- How do you think these donations will impact the ALS Association?

One of the greatest aspects of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is that it made fundraising FUN! Usually when we think about people asking for money or giving our money away, we become uncomfortable or guarded. Ask the questions:

- When is the last the time you were asked to make a donation?
- Did you give money? Why or why not?
- How did you feel about making this gift?

However, giving money away does not have to be something we dread or feel obligated to do. We can actually feel good, even joyful, when we decide to donate money.

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 9:7, “You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

(You can focus on this verse or the entire section, which includes verses 6-15)

In this section of 2 Corinthians, Paul is addressing a congregation that has been preparing a gift for another church in need, and they have been collecting these gifts over the past year. Paul’s letter is asking them to get everything ready, as their gift will be collected soon, but it also encourages them to enjoy this process of voluntarily giving to others. This is because their act of giving will not only be used to help others in need, but more importantly, it is a way of giving thanks to God. In giving of ourselves and our belongings, we show God that we are thankful for what has been given, and that we have faith that God will continue to provide for our needs. Ask the group to reflect on this passage and answer these questions:

- Can it be difficult to give our things to other people? Why?
- How can we remind ourselves that giving is an act of thanksgiving?
- Is money the only gift we are able to give others?
- How can we use our time and talents as a gift to benefit others in need?

Taking Action (15-20 minutes)

Introduction:

In 1968, a fund began in the United Methodist Church that was raised entirely by youth. Not only did youth raise the money for this fund, but they also chose where to send the money and gave it away to projects that were for, by, and with youth. It’s called the Youth Service Fund (YSF), and since its creation, MILLIONS of dollars have been given to projects all around the world.

Video:

Watch the 2 minute Youth Service Fund video found on the *About* page of www.youthservicefund.org.

This video features real youth from around the world who support Youth Service Fund! If you do not have a way to show this video, have someone read the summary below.

Summary:

Youth Service Fund offers all youth of the Church the opportunity to raise and contribute money to fund youth ministry projects in their own conference and around the world.

Here’s how it works: Youth raise money—this can be done through creative fundraisers, specials collections, or personal gifts—to contribute to the fund, and then committees of youth choose which projects will receive the funding. The projects selected are youth-designed, youth-led, and for the benefit of youth.

But wait—there’s more! When you give to Youth Service Fund, your gift goes even further than you think. Not only does this funding assist the youth within your region, but at least 30% will go to projects all around the world. Each Annual Conference uses 70% of what is raised to support projects selected by youth in the area, and 30% is sent to the Global Youth Service Fund, where youth from various parts of the world select projects to receive funding. If possible, represent this percentage to the group visually with a [pizza] pie chart!

Youth Service Fund is not only unique, but it is powerful. If every United Methodist youth in the United States gave just \$2, they would raise \$1,500,000! Just like the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, youth who give to Youth Service Fund are not alone. They are giving with other United Methodist youth from around the world to truly make a difference in the lives of other youth.

Offering:

To wrap up the lesson, ask the group to think about how they may be able to make an offering to the Youth Service Fund. Things to remember:

- How to keep a cheerful and thankful heart while giving
- Gifts do not have to only involve money or a 1 time gift
- This is a great time to brainstorm creative fundraising ideas
- Invite others to join you and spread the generosity bandwagon


You can “collect” this offering by using a pledge card like the one below. Keep these around, because you will likely want to review them at the end of the series, but it is also a good idea to follow up with the offerings in the future. You can also find a fundraising label at www.youthservicefund.org to place around a bottle to collect spare change today or on a regular basis.

I WILL SUPPORT THE YOUTH SERVICE FUND THROUGH:

(you may check more than one box)

- Donating \$2.00 / year
- Donating \$ _____ a year
- Telling others about Youth Service Fund
- Organizing/Participating in a fundraiser

Name: _____ Signature: _____



Social Media Challenge:

Post your best, wackiest, coolest fundraising idea you have to the **Youth Service Fund – UMC Facebook page**, and if you’ve tried the idea, tell about its success!

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, You have given us so much. We are all filled with so many spiritual gifts and abilities, and the world is filled with so much life and wonder. We are so thankful to you, God, for providing for our needs and for giving us a longing to help others. Please teach us how to give to others in a way that brings us all closer to you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

PART 2: CREATE

Introduction:

In this session, the group will focus on identifying and dreaming of ways to serve others while using their passions and talents.

NEEDED MATERIALS:

- Access to or copies of the Youth Service Fund Grant Application
- Paper, Pencils
- Bibles
- Large pad of paper or poster board for brainstorming

Opening Activity (10-15 minutes)

“SERVICE CHARADES”

Purpose:

To encourage the group to think about acts of service in new, creative ways.

How it Works:

Let's play a game of charades! In case some are unfamiliar with the game, explain that a person will be given a word or phrase to act out without using any words or sounds. The actor has 1 minute to try to get the group to guess correctly. The goal is to make all of the words or phrases service-related. Here are a few examples:

- Canned Food Drive
- After School Program
- Cleaning the House
- Home Repair
- Pick up Litter
- Share an Umbrella
- Plant a Garden
- Mail a Letter
- Babysitting
- Cooking Dinner

Reflection:

All of the items acted out today showed acts of service that individuals can do to improve the well-being of someone else. Although it's not always easy or fun, we can do something very simple to make the world a better place for everyone around us.

Discussion (15-20 minutes)

Scripture:

James 2: 14-17, *“If people say they have faith, but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing. If you hope for a person to stay warm and get plenty to eat, but you don't give what that person needs, your words are worth nothing.”*

James is very straight forward in this passage. He says that if our actions don't line up with what we say we believe, then there is really no benefit in claiming these beliefs. As United Methodists, we have inherited a strong tradition for showing the love of Christ by serving others. Founder John Wesley encouraged a life of action—not so we could feel good about ourselves, but to respond to God's love for us and follow the example of Christ.

Jesus gives us the enormous task of loving one another as he loved us (John 15:12), and when we combine this with James teaching, we know that just saying, “*I love you,*” will not make anyone feel genuinely loved. Ask the question:

- What are some examples of how you can show that you truly love someone?
- How might people expect a Christian to act?
- How do you think a Christian should act?

Brainstorming:

To show our love for our neighbors, we seek to serve them with our actions. There are many ways to show love to others, and today we’re going to brainstorm some ideas for how we could possibly serve other youth.

Invite the group to start by reflecting on the following questions and answering with short 1-3 word responses:

- What are the biggest issues faced by youth in our world today? (Encourage the group to think both locally and globally, and these answers can range from specific problems at school to big, widespread problems.)
- What are some of the ways people are helping to solve these issues? (You may want to have a few examples ready that they will be familiar with—a food pantry, an afterschool program, missionaries, Imagine No Malaria, etc.)
- How can you, as a group, make a difference?(It may be difficult to think about personally making a difference after thinking of such big issues; but maybe there is an opportunity to partner with an existing project or starting something new.)

Make sure to write down all of the ideas, preferably on a poster board so everyone can see them. Emphasize that there are no wrong ideas, and they can be as creative as they possible! When you get to a stopping place with these initial ideas, pick one or two examples that seem to bring excitement but are also realistic. Have the group reflect on these questions:

- Who will the project serve?
- Where will the ministry be housed?
- Is there an organization in the community to partner with?
- How will the project be organized (leadership, planning, volunteers, etc.)?
- What resources will be needed to make this project happen?

Taking Action (20-25 minutes)

Instructions:

Now it’s time to put all of the group’s thoughts into writing and onto a real grant application. Whether you eventually submit an application or not, it is a great experience to see what goes into requesting a YSF grant. Access the application at www.youthservicefund.org. The U.S. English application is included (see next page).

STEP 1: Focus on one project from the brainstorming session, and give it a title.

STEP 2: Read the information page (page 2) on the YSF application out loud.

STEP 3: Work together on a budget. This is one of the most important pieces of the application, and it helps the group think through how they can go about turning their project into a reality. Don’t get stuck on this section; you can revisit it later.

STEP 4: Break into groups to answer questions 1-8 on the application, then read the answers out loud to the group when reassembled.

STEP 5: Have the group discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the project, as well as what would need to happen to complete the application.



YOUTH SERVICE FUND APPLICATION

Application due JUNE 1, 2015

(FOR 2016 FUNDING)

Return application to:

Young People's Ministries
Attn: Grants Administrator
PO Box 340003
Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003

or via e-mail:

youngpeople@gbod.org

Contact:

Toll-free: 877-899-2780 x7184
Fax: 615-340-7063
E-mail: youngpeople@gbod.org
Website: www.globalyoungpeople.org



YOUTH SERVICE FUND

The purpose of Young People's Ministries is to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ, to nurture faith development, and to equip young leaders. This may be done by building a network of support and providing resources that connect the diverse experiences of youth and young adults in local ministries and communities across the globe.

Since the mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, Youth Service Fund projects will be examined to see how they challenge youth to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

SELECTION PROCESS

Priority will be given to those projects that are youth-led (i.e. youth have been leaders in the creation, development, implementation and evaluation of a project.) The project must be youth-related (12-18 years of age, or up to age 24 for international projects.)

Youth Service Fund money is to be used to develop new projects that will become self-supporting. **There is no guarantee of funding after one year and no project will be funded more than three consecutive years** (funding for consecutive years will decrease from that of the previous year).

Youth Service Fund grants should have a substantial effect on the project but will not be used to fund a deficit.

Projects should be racially and ethnically inclusive whenever possible.

Preference will be given to United Methodist projects within the connectional system. Projects of other churches and cooperative efforts between religious groups will be favored next. Finally, projects sponsored by secular organizations that meet Youth Service Fund criteria will be considered.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- The goals of the project should be stated clearly. The project review committee needs to be able to visualize the project in action.
- Submitting a specific budget is essential. Where does income come from? What expense does your project have? No more than 25% of Youth Service Fund monies granted may be used for administration or salary, freeing a minimum of 75% for program development.
- Illustrate church and community support, financial and otherwise. Letters of support from church and community leaders are encouraged.
- Specify one primary project category to describe your project.
- If your project is chosen you will:
 - Be notified in October 2015;
 - Be required to return a Good Faith Agreement and payment information by January 1, 2016;
 - Receive funds by check in January and July of 2016;
 - Be asked to submit two progress reports: one to receive the second payment and one following the funding year.

YOUTH SERVICE FUND PROJECT APPLICATION

This form does not need to be used; but all the requested information needs to be provided. Answer every question in the order listed to present a clear, complete, and concise application.

Project Title: _____

Church/Agency: _____

Annual Conference (if United Methodist): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Website:** _____

Total Project Budget
(In U.S. Dollars) \$ _____

Amount Requested
(In U.S. Dollars)* \$ _____

** May be up to \$15,000*

Signatures:

1) Printed Name of Project Contact Person

Title

Signature

Date

2) Printed Name of Bishop, Pastor or Organization Director

Title

Signature

Date

3) Printed Name of Sponsoring Organization Representative

Title

Signature

Date

Note: *If selected for funding, these three contacts will be notified upon receipt of payments.*

PROJECT CATEGORY

Please choose the one that best describes your project.

- FAITH SHARING AND OUTREACH** - Provides young people with tools to help them evaluate, understand and articulate and share their experiences of faith with others; gives young people opportunities to live their faith through ministry to others—through outreach, in-service learning, and mission.
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** - Encourages, equips and empowers young people to be disciples of Jesus Christ and agents of change in the local church, community and the world
- SCHOLARSHIP** - Provides monetary assistance to ensure participation of young people in educational/training, service/mission and other ministry opportunities
- MINISTRY WITH AT-RISK YOUTH** - Incorporates youth oppressed by unjust economic, political and social systems in programs that seek to build just, free and peaceful societies. Equips youth with the skills needed to be healthy and whole. Provides a safe environment where youth can express their hurts, joys and concerns, and experience the power of God's love, healing and grace
- AGRICULTURAL/VOCATIONAL** - Assists families and/or communities in the areas of education, agriculture, economic development, job training and self-determination

INFORMATION ON PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDERS

What age will project providers be? _____

If different, what age are persons being served? _____

Participant's racial/ethnic identity
(please list estimated percentages)

_____ % African American
_____ % Asian or Asian American
_____ % European American
_____ % Hispanic or Latino
_____ % Native American
_____ % Pacific Islander
_____ % Other: _____

Provider's racial/ethnic identity
(please list estimated percentages)

_____ % African American
_____ % Asian or Asian American
_____ % European American
_____ % Hispanic or Latino
_____ % Native American
_____ % Pacific Islander
_____ % Other: _____

PROJECT INFORMATION FOR FUNDING PURPOSES:

The project is (select one):

- United Methodist** (Name of church/agency) _____
- Non-United Methodist or Ecumenical or Interfaith**
- Secular or Community-based**
- Other** (please explain) _____

If you have received any Youth Service Fund grants previously, please list below:

YEAR	AMOUNT	NATIONAL OR ANNUAL CONFERENCE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please list other sources of funding for which you have applied for this project for this application year (including other United Methodist channels such as other general agencies or ethnic caucuses) and indicate whether “awarded,” “pending,” or “denied.”

ANSWER ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Briefly describe the background and setting of your project. What significance does your project have on the lives of both the individuals and the community it serves?
2. Write a three-sentence description of what this project hopes to accomplish.
3. What action will be taken to accomplish this goal?
4. Provide a checklist of four (4) measurable short-term goals for this project (e.g., increase participation by 15% by July 30th, train five new mentors to serve in the program.)
5. How and when did the project get started? How many youth have been served?
6. How are youth involved in the planning, programming, and administration of the project?
7. How do you plan to spend this Youth Service Fund grant?
8. What will be the effect on your project if you are awarded an amount substantially less than the amount requested? Will you be able to adapt?
9. Attach a proposed budget for this project.
10. Attach a letter of support from your annual conference’s bishop (if United Methodist), your local church pastor (if Non-United Methodist or Ecumenical), or the Organization Director (if Secular or Community-based).
11. Attach 1-3 pictures of the anticipated project space and/or the youth helping to lead this project.

Follow-Up:

If there is enough momentum and excitement for this project, it may be a good idea to assign a 2-3 person team that will commit to finishing the grant application and present it to the group on a set date.

Whether the group is ready to create a new project or not, it will still be very meaningful to follow up with a service project in the area. This will give the group a chance to put Christ's love into action and serve their neighbors.

Social Media Challenge:

Using **#youthservicefund**, share your dream project that you would create to help other youth if you faced no limitations.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, we love you and want to show that love in a real way. We ask that you will use us and our creative ideas to better serve your people. There are many who need to feel your love, God, and we hope to carry the light of Christ with us as we serve others. Thank you for loving us through it all. Amen.

PART 3: RECEIVE

Introduction:

This final session focuses on the many ways in which we receive gifts from others and how to do so with a grateful attitude.

NEEDED MATERIALS:

- Gift Certificates for the Opening Activity
- Access to Project Review Worksheets
- Paper, Pencils
- Bibles

Opening Activity (10-15 minutes)

“THE GREAT GIVING SWAP”

Purpose:

To show that giving away things that we want for ourselves, whether they are tangible or not, is not always easy. Giving does not have to involve money, and the act of giving can really benefit others.

How it Works:

The leader will need to prepare Gift Certificates in advance. It is recommended that you have enough for the whole group or enough for a 5-10 group of volunteers. These do not have to be huge or extravagant, just a small piece of paper that says something like, “This Gift Certificate is good for the following:” and then fill in the blank.

Here are a few suggestions of items to include:

- Fresh Baked Cookies
- 2 Tickets to Any Concert
- \$50 Credit to a Bookstore
- 4 Extra Hours of Free Time
- A Year Supply of Gum
- A Week Free from Chores
- Dinner for you and 3 friends
- New Cell Phone
- 10 Guitar Lessons

**THIS GIFT CERTIFICATE IS GOOD
FOR THE FOLLOWING:**



Whenever you have handed out the Gift Certificates to each member of the group, ask them to think about how they would use the gift they have just received. Have a few or all of the group share their answers.

Next, inform the group that they must give their gift away. They can give it to someone in the room or someone else they know, and have them explain why they selected that person to receive the gift. Then ask the questions:

- What was it like to give away your gift? Were you hesitant?
- How did/would you feel if you received another gift that you really wanted?

Discussion (15 – 20 minutes)

Scripture:

Proverbs 11:24-26, *“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water. The people curse those who hold back grain, but a blessing is on the head of those who sell it.”*

Reflection:

As this Proverb explains, something very interesting happens when we make the decision to give something that belongs to us to someone else. Although it would seem like giving away something that we would like for ourselves would leave us lacking in some way, Proverbs tells us that the giver actually gains from the experience. Alternatively, when we become stingy with our gifts, we cannot be satisfied by what we have and continue to want more. Ask these questions:

- Do you think this Proverb is talking about a great monetary gain from giving?
- Have you ever given something away—not just money, but maybe time and effort—and felt like you somehow benefited more from the exchange?
- What types of things can be gained from giving to others?

Verse 26 is especially interesting, because it suggests that in a time of need, when people are hungry, if anyone has extra grain to spare, they should not stockpile it for themselves. They aren't expected to give it away for free either, but to not sell it to those who need it to survive, that would bring a curse on their land. Ask the group to reflect on this question:

- What kind of statement are you making if you have a large supply of food and yet you keep it all to yourself?

When selfishness and greed take over, our trust in God diminishes. Instead of relying on God for our needs, the focus turns to satisfying our wants with stuff. However, no amount of money or clothes or food or whatever, will ever make a person truly happy or fulfilled. God ensures that we will receive so much more when we live generously.

According to scripture, there is no difference between a “giver” and a “receiver,” as we are all to strive to be both. Often times, it can be seen as a negative thing to be on the receiving end. Ask the questions:

- Why might some people not like to be seen as a receiver and only as a giver?
- What is difficult about receiving gifts from others?

More scripture: **Romans 11:36**, *“All things are from God and through God and for God. May the glory be to God forever. Amen.”*

Paul reminds us in his writings that everything we have, we have received from God. We are all recipients of God's creation, love and grace. Throughout history we find that one of the best ways to respond to all that we have received is through showing gratitude.

Information:

Dr. Robert Emmons is the Professor of Psychology at University of California, Davis, and he has spent years researching the effects of showing gratitude. As it turns out, having an “attitude of gratitude” has a huge impact on a person’s well-being. Not only can gratitude make you physically and emotionally healthier, but it can strengthen relationships, influence your ability to accomplish set goals, and cause you to be more empathetic and more likely to reach out to help someone in need. As Dr. Emmons explains, *“Gratitude enriches human life. It elevates, energizes, inspires and transforms. People are moved, opened, and humbled through expressions of gratitude.”* (www.gratitudepower.net/science.htm)

So when Paul writes about receiving all things from God, it is no surprise that the next sentence is *“May the glory be to God forever.”* It is important that we recognize what all we have received from others and from God. Although, developing this habit can take time and practice. Invite the group to take a moment and think about these questions:

- When was the last time you took time to acknowledge what you are grateful for?
- How did you express gratitude? Was it written or verbal?

Response:

Think about how you can remember to DAILY express gratitude to God and to those around you. Maybe you could try a Gratitude Journal that you write in each night, or start writing letters to God. Perhaps you can ask a friend to be an accountability partner who will share what they are thankful for with you.

For today, think of one thing you are grateful for and share it with the group.

Taking Action (20-25 minutes)

Instructions:

Because of the Youth Service Fund, every year youth are able to select other youth to receive grant funding for projects they have started. Today the group is going to experience a glimpse of what the Project Review process is like. Invite the group to keep the recent discussion in mind and put themselves in the shoes of the youth requesting and potentially receiving funding as they consider the 5 different projects.

Form smaller groups of 4-6 people, and give them a copy of the Project Review Team Information Packet. All of the instructions are included, although you may want to read the first page out loud as a group. There is no right or wrong answer for this activity, so encourage the group to follow their passions as they make a decision.

PROJECT REVIEW TEAM

You are now a member of the Project Review Team for the Youth Service Fund, and your task is to review grant applications and award the available money as you see fit. For each project, your team must choose whether to grant the full amount requested, a partial amount, or to deny funding.

Today your team is considering 5 grant applications, and you have \$20,000 to distribute.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION PROCESS:

- The project **MUST** involve youth (ages 12-18 or up to age 24 for international projects).
- The money should be used to develop new projects that will become self-supporting, because there is no guarantee of funding after one year and no project will be funded more than three years in a row.
- Grants should have a substantial effect on the project but not be used to pay off a debt.
- Projects should be racially and ethnically inclusive whenever possible.
- Preference is given to United Methodist projects; projects of other churches and interfaith groups will be favored next; then projects from secular organizations will be considered.
- The maximum amount to request is \$15,000.

APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO PLACE THEIR PROJECT INTO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- Faith Sharing and Outreach
- Ministry with At-Risk Youth
- Scholarship
- Leadership Development
- Agricultural/Vocational

Remember—each year hundreds of organizations request financial assistance from the Youth Service Fund and invest their time and hope into receiving this gift for their ministry. Without fail, there are always more requests for grant funds than the amount of funding available. As you consider funding new projects with Youth Service Fund dollars, remember that every project represents a group of youth with the determination and desire to make the world a better place in the name of Jesus Christ.

AWARDS WORKSHEET

PROJECT NAME	AFFILIATION	REQUEST	AWARDED
A Mile in Their Shoes	UMC	\$5,000	\$
Notes:			
GNAC Young Adult Conference: Servants in Leadership	UMC	\$12,000	\$
Notes:			
The Good Food Movement	Interfaith	\$7,800	\$
Notes:			
Los Jóvenes de Hoy	Interfaith	\$3,750	\$
Notes:			
Project Hope	Secular	\$9,000	\$
Notes:			

PROJECTS TO BE REVIEWED

A Mile In Their Shoes

Category: Ministry with At-Risk Youth

Affiliation: United Methodist, Western Jurisdiction

Project Budget: \$9,500

Amount Requested: \$5,000

A Mile in Their Shoes is a one day, anti-bullying event hosted by Piney Grove United Methodist Church in Colorado Spring, CO. Inspired by local and national events, the youth of Piney Grove decided to partner with 3 other local congregations to put a stop to bullying. The event will include times of worship, a meal together, and small groups for scenarios with role playing and discussion. The focus will be on how to prevent and stop bullying from a Christian perspective, and the event is open to all teens in the community. Their goal is to raise enough funding to make the event free for all registered participants.

GNAC Young Adult Conference: Servants in Leadership

Category: Scholarship

Affiliation: United Methodist, Germany

Project Budget: \$65,800

Amount Requested: \$12,000

The Germany North Annual Conference holds an annual, 4-day leadership conference for youth and young adults in Hamburg, Germany. Former participants in the conference help lead many of the seminars and events. The conference focuses on how young people can be active members in their local congregations and outside of the church in their communities. The YSF funding will go toward providing full scholarships for 20 young people to attend and 30 partial scholarships.

The Good Food Movement

Category: Faith Sharing & Outreach

Affiliation: Non-UMC, Interfaith

Project Budget: \$7,800

Amount Requested: \$7,800

The Good Food Movement started when the youth at New Life Community Church in Atlanta, GA volunteered at their church's weekly homeless ministry, and they noticed that the food being served during the meal was not very healthy. Because the church could only afford to serve whatever the food bank delivered that week, the youth decided to hold a community-wide fund raiser for "good" food. They've decided to turn the fundraiser into a monthly occurrence, and the next goal is to start a youth-led community garden in a plot near the church. Through this ministry, the youth share about how their faith causes them to want to serve others in the best way possible.

Los Jóvenes de Hoy

Category: Leadership Development

Affiliation: Non-UMC, Interfaith

Project Budget: \$3,750

Amount Requested: \$3,750

Spanish for, "Youth of Today," Los Jóvenes de Hoy is a project in Ahuachapán, El Salvador. As the youth and young adult ministries at New Jerusalem Church continue to expand, there is a growing need for leadership training and teaching materials. This project aims to provide printed Christian education materials and leadership training courses for five young adults. Those five young adults will work together leading different ministries and times of worship in the church. In addition, Los Jóvenes de Hoy also focuses on the young adult band that leads in weekly worship services, and some of the funding will be used to equip the band with more music, instruments, and technologies to further develop their music ministry.

Project Hope

Category: Vocational

Project Budget: \$10,200

Affiliation: Secular/Community-Based

Amount Requested: \$9,000

Project Hope is located just outside of Kisumu, Kenya, and it trains young women to make jewelry along with the skills to manage a business. The jewelry they make is sold both locally and internationally. The women can stay with the program for up to 5 years if they are between the ages of 15 and 25, and currently the program can employ up to 15 women. The funding will be used to supply more materials as well as to buy a new computer and other technologies to help with international sales.

Follow-Up:

After each small group has decided which amount to give, bring everyone back together. If time allows, each group can share how much they decided to give to each project. Then ask the group to reflect on these questions:

- Did you choose to fully support any ministry? Why?
- How do you think partially funding a project may affect the ministry?
- How did it feel to have a limited budget?
- Where do you see the project you funded the most in 5-10 years?
- How can YSF dollars impact the lives of youth involved with projects like these?

Social Media Challenge:

Share a story or a picture of something you have received—whether it is tangible or not—and tell why you are grateful for it. Post on the **Youth Service Fund – UMC Facebook page** or use **#youthservicefund**.

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, we give thanks to you for the abundant gifts that we receive from you each day—for the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the beauty that surrounds us. Forgive us for the times that we forget to show our appreciation to you and those around us. May the glory be to you, God, forever! Amen.