

**NETWORK OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Riefler**  
**Ministry Enablement Fund**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the ministry enablement fund of the Network of Religious Communities is to assist congregations and organizations associated with congregations to:

1. Nurture good news for our region.
2. Set at liberty those who are oppressed.
3. Minister to the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the imprisoned, the sick, the lonely etc.
4. Foster reconciliation.
5. Equip the laity and clergy for effective ministry in the Buffalo Area.
6. Strengthen and build up the religious community.

**CRITERIA FOR FUNDING**

1. The proposal must be consistent with the purpose of the fund.
2. The proposal must provide for ministry to and be located within the Buffalo Area. It must identify and describe the organization submitting the proposal and its connection with a local congregation (s). (Listing a board member who happens to belong to a congregation does not qualify as a relationship to a congregation)
3. The proposal must: (a) meet identified community needs within the Buffalo Area; (b) describe clearly its goals and objectives and the methods to be used to achieve the goals and objectives; and (c) state how progress toward the goals and objectives will be measured.
4. The proposal must describe the resources known to be available to support the proposed ministry including a description of the talents available within and outside the community, in-kind contributions, and financial commitments already made or being sought.
5. The proposal must contain a budget showing expenditures and income over the life of the proposal.

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**PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING:** Bonus points will be given for proposals that:

1. Address more than one of the purposes of Ministry Enablement Fund
2. Are creative new ministries. (Riefler is not designed for long term support)
3. Are not likely to be funded by the public sector or by private foundations.  
(Except as described in 4 below)
4. Leverage additional community resources--money, talent, etc. (The Fund may be used initially for “seed money” or “matching money” to enable organizations to receive significant public or private sector funding.)
5. Bridge racial/ethnic/religious barriers
6. Involve persons from the community of need in the planning and decision making.
7. Focus on advocacy as well as service and prevention as well as problem solving.
8. Are ecumenical and/or interreligious
9. Congregations and local ecumenical/interreligious organizations that have not received grants from the fund in the previous 3 years.
10. Originate from organizations belonging to the Network of Religious Communities.

**GRANT RANGE:**

- Single congregation: Up to \$ 3,000.00  
Grants will depend upon ranking of project and availability of funds
- Several congregations or ecumenical/Interreligious organization. Up to \$8,000.00  
Grants will depend upon ranking of project and availability of funds