



March 23, 2025

## PSEC New Ministries Fund Issues Final Grants

The New Ministries Fund program (established from the change of Conference Centers and the closure of our outdoor ministry center at Mensch Mill) was a fund which awarded up to \$15,000 in support of new ministry initiatives — particularly those which connected congregations and local communities. Funding initiatives included support of new preschool programs, a child diaper bank, a ministry of Healing, Wholeness and Restoration, mission projects in partnership with local helping agencies and worship experiences specifically designed for use outside the church. The initial fund of \$150,000 grew and increased our ability to offer a total of \$195,146.81 in grants.

**With the approval of a final grant in January 2025, all of those funds have been deployed in ministries around the Conference.** A chart of awarded programs can be found by going to [psec.org](http://psec.org), click on the Missions & Ministries tab and the New Ministries Fund subtab.

This ministry support was made possible by decades of OCWM offerings and the generosity of individuals and congregations from around the Conference. We offer prayers of gratitude for that and for the ways that we continue to build a fruitful future from the legacy of a faithful past.



## 2025 Open and Affirming National Gathering

*Sacred Seen and Called: Living our Truth, Embracing Our Light*

July 9 @ 12:00 pm—July 10 @ 7:00 pm

Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Kansas City

- these are the two days prior to General Synod

Register at:

<https://openandaffirming.networkforgood.com/events/83144-2025>

## One Great Hour of Sharing Be The Light

*“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives.” (Matthew 5:14-16, The Message)*

Dear partners in ministry, I love Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase of these verses in Matthew 5, and the clear commission they give to show up brightly in the world and be generous with our lives. That is the invitation extended in this year’s One Great Hour of Sharing theme, Be the Light. The scriptures tell us that huge crowds were gathering, drawn to Jesus by his teachings and the miracles of healing he performed. So, Jesus climbed a hill and delivered his “sermon on the mount.” He opened his message by bestowing beautiful blessings that must have been like balm for those hearing it, and then he described a life of discipleship. He commands us in those verses to be light-bearers, to raise that light high and cast it wide. Our giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is one way we can heed that call. When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, we shed light in places where circumstances make it difficult to imagine a future with hope. We create possibility for people forced to flee their homes in search of safety and new promise. We support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and overturn lives. We empower partners around the globe in their labors to build sustainable futures. We plant seeds of peace where war has wrought despair and destruction.

