

Dare to Dream Video



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Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Dare to Dream Grant Application

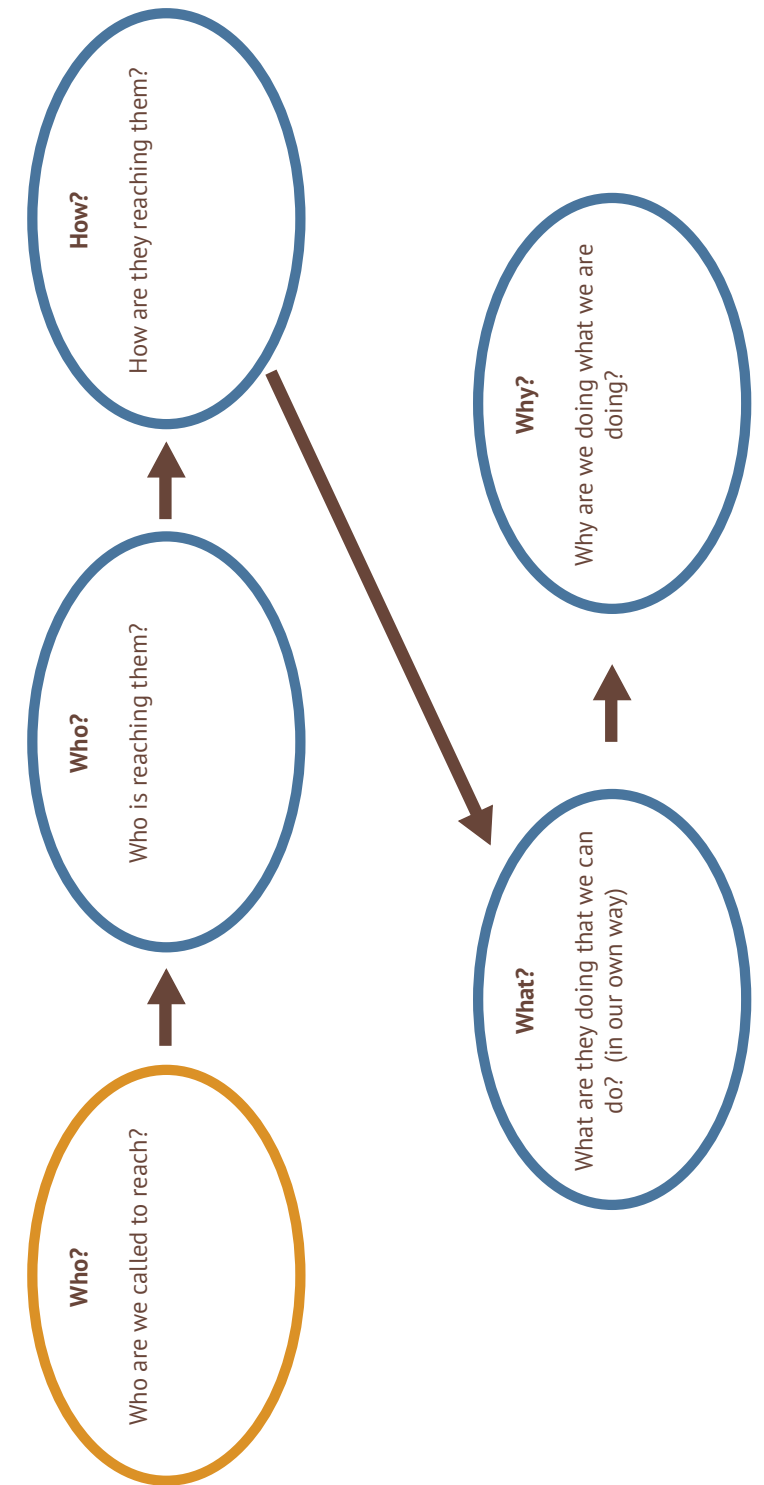


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Ministry Matrix

[[fill in for your current ministry]]





The Dare to Dream Grant Application

The purpose of the Dare to Dream grant program is to assist and encourage ARP churches to engage more effectively in their mission to go and make disciples of those they are called to reach. It begins with seeking a particular goal for mission or vision for ministry: “Lord, how can our church reach these people at this time in this place? Where is the need in our community? What breaks our heart for those who are not a part of our church? How can we engage them?” Your ministry team will articulate a strategy. The Board of Outreach North America (ONA) desires to help churches go through a process of developing and implementing strategies that are realistic, effective, repeatable, measurable, proven, and aligned with a church’s mission and vision.

The Board of ONA has established a matching-funds grant program to assist ARP congregations in this work. Upon approval of a Dare To Dream Grant proposal by the ONA Board, churches are eligible to receive 3-to-1 matching funds from ONA (for every \$3 of new funds secured by the local congregation designated for the purpose of the project, the ONA Board will match \$1, up to \$15,000). The ONA Board is able to assist a congregation to assess what funds are necessary for the proposed work, what may be available from external sources, and what may be raised. Churches may reapply each year for a Dare to Dream Grant. Grants are dependent upon the availability of ONA Board funds and are made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applying for a Grant

1. ARP congregations should complete a Dare to Dream Grant Proposal, described below. This proposal should be concise, usually no more than three or four pages.
2. Normally, a proposal for a grant should be sent to the Executive Director of the Board of ONA through a presbytery’s Church Extension/ONA Committee.
3. The matching grant award is based on new, designated funds raised for this project. A congregation may consider many sources of funding, such as local offerings, individual support, presbytery support, ARP Foundation funds, or other sponsoring churches.
4. Grants should not be requested to acquire or maintain physical assets such as property, buildings, or equipment unless the ministry project described depends on such assets.
5. The Board of ONA will ordinarily evaluate grant applications for approval at its spring and fall meetings. In cases of exigency, applications can be approved at a called meeting of the ONA Board’s executive committee, which will solicit input from the ONA Board’s vitality committee and other external advisors.

Dare to Dream Grant Proposal

1. **Your Local Congregation:** Give the name, address, and website for your congregation, and the preferred contact information the primary contact person. Write a brief narrative outlining the history of your congregation up to this point (when was it founded, what was the original vision for the congregation, have there been seasons of growth and decline, how many years has it been in its current location, and what is the current makeup of the congrega-

tion—its size, characteristics, leadership, and health).

2. **Strategy:** Describe the nature of the project. A successful proposal will describe a strategic initiative for mission and/or ministry that has proven to be effective and is well aligned with both your congregation and community.
 - a. **Who is the target community?**
Describe who your congregation is called to reach.
 - b. **Who is currently reaching them?**
What other churches, organizations, or Christians have been successfully laboring to reach those you are called to reach?
 - c. **How are they reaching them?**
Briefly describe the ministry/strategy/method that others have demonstrated to be effective.
 - d. **What are they doing that we can do?**
Of what they are doing, what can you do in your own way to achieve similar results? This becomes the “dream” for which you are seeking matching grant funds.
 - e. **Why are we doing what we are doing?**
Briefly evaluate the purpose and effectiveness of your congregation’s current ministry and strategies in other areas, particularly those that could change to support this initiative to reach the community for Christ.
* see *Ministry Matrix* tool

3. **Support:** Describe what is necessary to support the proposed work.
 - a. **What funding is needed, and what has already been secured?**
 - i. Total resources needed to support this project are \$_____.
 - ii. Sources of Financial Support already secured:
 1. Local funds secured: \$_____.
 2. Funds secured from other individuals

- a. and churches: \$_____.
3. Presbytery support: \$_____.
Funds secured from other sources
4. (specify): \$_____.
- b. *When is this being executed?* Provide a schedule for implementing the work, briefly describing important milestones.
- c. *What prayer support for this initiative is in place?* Elders are encouraged to engage your local congregation in prayer for God’s blessing on the work and to consider engaging other congregations in the presbytery or region.
- d. *How have the officers of the congregation secured the willingness of the congregation to engage in this work?* Is the church’s leadership and membership united in its eagerness to undertake this work together?
- e. *How will you evaluate success?* The Board of ONA is eager to reproduce effective initiatives and strategies in other congregations. We would like a congregation to consider how the success of this strategy might be evaluated and commit to reporting the results of their evaluation to the ONA Board every six months. Please state how you will evaluate success and set two dates six months and one year into the project at which an evaluation will be reported to the ONA Board.

Receiving a Grant Award

1. After the approval of a grant, the matching funds will be released when a congregation submits documentation that it has secured a definite amount of new, designated funds.
2. The congregation should also submit an approved budget or other evidence of authorization for the expenditure of funds on the project.