

WDC Hope Fund Task Force

Peter Goerzen

Purpose: To process and approve applications for grants from the Hope Fund, according to guidelines approved by the Executive Board.

Origin and Developments of the Hope Fund

The WDC Executive Board established the Hope Fund in April 2020 to empower local congregations to meet needs related to the pandemic, such as medical expenses, food, rent, utilities, and pastoral support. The severe winter weather in February 2021 compounded many of these needs with power and water outages and additional expenses and losses of income.

In response to these expanding needs, WDC leadership decided to extend the Hope Fund to respond to other emergencies in addition to its original focus. Hope Funds are now available for natural disaster and other emergencies. Congregations may apply for grants of up to \$2500 from the Hope Fund. For more information and application instructions, see <https://mennowdc.org/wdc-hope-fund-response-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>.

The Executive Board initially appointed an ad hoc committee to administer the Hope Fund, then in April 2021 established the Hope Fund Task Force.

The Hope Fund Task Force gives thanks that during this time of many needs, God is providing Hope for WDC congregations as they continue their work of ministry in their settings.

Distribution and Financial Report (As of May 31, 2021)

The Hope Fund has provided 14 grants to 11 congregations from all across WDC (several congregation received more than one grant). The Hope Fund provided one grant to the Ministerial Leadership Commission to support mental health needs of ministers during the pandemic.

Total contributions since the establishment of the Hope Fund: \$49,156.11

Total disbursements since the establishment of the Hope Fund: \$36,380.99

Balance in the Hope Fund: \$12,775.12

With profound gratitude for WDC members' amazing generosity, the task force invites continued mutual prayer and support for one another in the conference.

Task Force Members: Wayne Albrecht, Lester Caceros, Peter Goerzen, Matt Lehman Wiens, Heidi Regier Kreider, WDC conference minister liaison