

Eugene C. Bay Fund for Urban Ministry

The Eugene C. Bay Fund for Urban Ministry was established in 2004 as a celebration of the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Eugene C. Bay who served as Pastor at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church from 1987-2004. Dr. Bay's passion for urban ministry, priority for improving the lives of children, and his commitment to the communities of West Philadelphia and Chester guided BMPC through a season of revitalization and engagement in mission partnerships. Since its inception, more than 25 organizations have received funds totaling over \$1.5 million. For some of these organizations, BMPC was honored to be one of their earliest partners.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church is guided in its mission work locally and internationally by values rooted in our ever reforming Presbyterian faith tradition as well as an awareness that we are called to partner in intentional ways. We are people of hope. Interwoven within the Bible's demands for justice and righteousness is the message of redemption and transformation and of suffering transformed into new life. Our response to this message of hope and our work in mission vary according to the need and situation, often falling into one of three types of work: *compassion, justice and transformation.*

The work of **COMPASSION** provides immediate assistance and relief to people who need food, clothing, shelter, education, and financial and medical aid. As we engage in compassionate service and enter into relationships with those we serve, we begin to see with new eyes and hear with new ears. Searching for the causes of suffering, we recognize that the structures of society too often deny people abundant life, and we are open to hear God's call to work for justice.

The work of **JUSTICE** attempts to address the sources of suffering by exposing oppression and exploitation and working with (and within) communities to find solutions. This work goes beyond sharing materials or wealth; it is sharing time, insight and talent. Partnership is essential whether advocating on behalf of marginalized communities or acting to empower such communities.

Finally, the work of **TRANSFORMATION** is the highest goal yet the hardest to achieve. Transformation cannot be programmed or planned. It is an act of grace. But often, by working in dynamic partnership and relationship with people on the margins, we seek to be a vehicle as well as a recipient of transformation. As a result of mutual study, prayer and effort, we hope to arrive at the place of solidarity. Solidarity means physically and spiritually standing with those in the midst of struggle. It requires commitment to communities of brokenness as we engage in dialogue and sharing.

Our calling is to respond to the complexities of our world and to relate to people in ways that enable them to discover their own solutions and reconstruct their own lives. A response faithful to the Gospel is based on a compassionate relationship and a vision of wholeness. We recognize that this is a journey. The world will continue to change, and we will be asked to change as well as we seek to be effective and faithful in this work.

FUNDING CRITERIA

The Eugene C. Bay Fund for Urban Ministry primarily seeks program/project applications that directly focus on the enhancement of the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual lives of children and youth. Funding decisions will take into consideration the following additional criteria, among others:

- Inclusion of a significant self-help component drawing upon the existing resources of the community impacted/served
- Encouragement of personal transformation
- Alignment with BMPC's mission values described above
- Opportunities for urban and suburban residents to work and grow together
- Projects impacting residents of urban Philadelphia or Chester
- Projects that advance the prospect of systemic change

The Eugene C. Bay Fund will not make grants for scholarships, endowments or capital improvements.

GRANT PROCESS AND DEADLINES

Organizations should submit a Letter of Intent (no more than two pages) that gives information and summarizes their proposal by **January 15, 2026**.

Organizations whose Letters of Intent are accepted will be asked to submit a full proposal by **February 28, 2026** which shall include:

- Description of the program/project
- Description of the community served
- Description of how this program/project fulfills the fund criteria
- Budget for the program/project and specific funding request
- Organization's current financial status
- Plans for sustaining the program beyond BMPC funding

Site visits will be made in the **Spring and Summer of 2026**.

Funding is typically disbursed in the fall.

Grants are disbursed on either a one or a two-year basis.

Recipients are required to provide interim and final narrative reporting and financial accounting of funds awarded.

All Letters of Intent and full proposals should be sent to grants@bmpc.org
For more information about the Eugene C. Bay Fund for Urban Ministry, please contact:

The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Mission
RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

PAST RECIPIENTS

INTERFAITH PHILADELPHIA – Youth Programing

2022 & 2023 totaling \$50,000

Interfaith Philadelphia runs a variety of Youth initiatives and programs for middle schoolers, high schoolers, and even young adults. Through interfaith engagement, creative reflection, relationship building, and service learning, the students learn to appreciate the traditions and identities of others while taking pride in their own heritage and developing dialogue and leadership skills to carry into their futures. Funding will help Interfaith Philadelphia prioritize the expansion of their revenue-generating programs such as Alternative Break and private school partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability.

THE COMMON PLACE - Southwest Arts and Technology Camp

2020 & 2021 totaling \$60,000

The Common Place is located in Southwest Philadelphia and serves children and families through educational programs, social service, collaboration and faith formation. TCP recognizes that children not only need to have a safe, secure environment to protect them from the realities of urban life but also availability to education and activities which will expose them to knowledge in areas that will help them create viable career paths and become valuable contributors to humanity. Their two year grant from the Bay Fund supported their SWAT program in the summer of 2020 with a significantly adapted arts and technology curriculum, moving the bulk of the learning online, providing Chrome Books for students in their homes as well as helping to coordinate and fund internet access for families in their homes. The 2021 grant was put towards a more traditional in person version of their SWAT curriculum.

THE LUTHERAN SETTLEMENT HOUSE - Jane Addams Place

2018 & 2019 totaling \$50,350

Established in 1902, Lutheran Settlement House is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to serving vulnerable children, adults and families living in Philadelphia. The Jane Addams Place is an emergency shelter for families, including up to 70 children at one time. Families stay at the Jane Addams Place on average 5.5 months and receive case management and other support services, providing shelter for over 475 individuals per year. To better serve youth at Jane Addams Place and address their complicated emotional and social needs, LSH used a grant from the Bay Fund to increase staff capacity to effectively support and provide services to homeless youth. They also evaluated and expanded their current after school and summer programming and provided trauma informed training to ensure that each and every staff person at the shelter has some degree of training and preparation for working with youth who have experienced trauma.

GEMMA SERVICES – Parent Child Interactive Therapy

2016 & 2017 totaling \$42,950

Since 1877, Gemma Services has been engaged in the work of advocating for children and families in Philadelphia. Their Bay Fund grant allowed them to expand their use of Parent Child Interactive Therapy both in Southwest Philadelphia as well as at their previous facilities in Rosemont, PA. PCIT was developed to treat children with conduct behavior problems and their families. The treatment is designed to help parents build a warm and responsive relationship with their child and to manage their child's behavior more effectively.