

We hope you will consider if this funding would be helpful to you in the coming year and encourage you to apply for one or both of these grants.

Whether you apply for either of these grants or not, we ask that one or more representatives of your church or ministry will attend

The Town and Rural Festival

November 3, 2018

Faith UMC (702 E. Dixon St., Polo)

At the Festival, grant recipients will be recognized and will share briefly on the fruit of their ministry. This day will also provide an invaluable opportunity to celebrate how churches in our conference are reaching out to their community as well as offer a time to learn and be inspired with ways your church can minister to its neighbors. - The Keagy/Town and Rural Committee

2018 GRANT SCHEDULE

November 5, 2017	Applications available online at: https://www.umcnic.org/leadership-resources/grants-scholarships/
March 15	Applications due into the Rockford/DeKalb Regional Office.
By March 31	Keagy/Town & Rural Committee meets to discern and award grants.
April 30	Checks for both Keagy and P.A.C.K. grants will be distributed to recipients.
October 1	Pictures of Grant Ministries to be emailed to the Keagy/Town & Rural Board

Keagy/Town & Rural Board



For years, the Martin Keagy Bequest Advisory Committee and the Town & Rural Board have worked separately to provide support to small town and rural churches in the NIC to train persons in skills useful for effective rural ministry, promote awareness of rural concerns and issues, enhance existing ministries, and develop new ministries in response to the changing rural environment.

In 2015, because of our shared values and vision, the Martin Keagy Advisory Committee and the NIC Town & Rural Board agreed to work together to steward these two grants:

The Martin Keagy Grant
The Planned Acts of Christian Kindness Grant

Each of these opportunities seek to provide funding to ministries within rural communities that the local church might otherwise be unable to fund on their own.

Martin Keagy Bequest Grants

Mr. Martin Keagy lived through the Great Depression of the 1930's when farm families experienced foreclosure and natural disaster. We believe these crises motivated Mr. Keagy to express his concern for farm and rural folk through the endowment of this trust. The NIC gratefully received this trust and promised a faithful stewardship of both the funds and the intention to support ministry in rural parishes that will enrich life for rural people.

Your church might consider applying for the Martin Keagy Grant if you are looking for seed money to start a brand new ministry in your community or to strengthen an already existing ministry that has successfully been bearing fruit. Ministries that have been funded in the past by the Martin Keagy Grant include:

- an after-school program for elementary age students
- a senior citizen ministry to provide programs and improve quality of life
- an educational sustainable agriculture ministry
- summer feeding ministries for children and families.

The amount your ministry can expect to receive from the Martin Keagy Grant is typically between \$500 and \$3,000.

Eligibility: Applicant churches must be set in a rural community or small town. We define “rural” as communities of 10,000 or less that are a part of farming communities.

Deadline: March 15, 2018

Town & Rural P.A.C.K. Grants

The Town and Rural Board of the NIC has worked through the years to help bring resources and training to the rural and small town local churches. These P.A.C.K. (Planned Acts of Christian Kindness) grant and program monies come from the NIC annual budget and are made possible through the faithful participation of local churches in their apportionments.

Your church might consider applying for the P.A.C.K. Grant if you are looking for a smaller amount of money—between \$100 and \$500—to strategically reach out and bless the lives of your community neighbors. In past years many P.A.C.K. Grants have been used to:

- purchase water or popcorn to hand out at summer parades or community festivals
- provide fire safety lessons and 9V batteries to town residents
- give away hot cocoa or coffee at local gas stations during the Christmas season.

Eligibility: Applicant churches must be set in a rural community or small town. We define “rural” as communities of 10,000 or less that are a part of farming communities.

Deadline: March 15, 2018