1. **What is the downtown clergy group and why was this fund established?** The Minneapolis Interfaith Relief Fund (MIRF) was established by the senior clergy of downtown interfaith congregations in response to requests for financial support from the communities affected by unrest in the city, following the police killing of George Floyd. See the Statement on the Killing of George Floyd* below, along with the list of congregations involved.

2. **When was the MIRF fund established?** June 1, 2020. As of November, 2020, the senior clergy have reaffirmed their intention to keep MIRF as an opportunity to support those working in the community in direct response to those affected by systemic racism.

3. **What is the process for decision-making about distributing the funds?** An Allocation Team of senior clergy will disburse funds to agencies and partners in communities of color and in the indigenous community that are working directly with those most affected. The Allocation Team includes these seven clergy, of which three are people of color: Makram El-Amin, Masjid An-Nur, the Rev. Dr. Laurie Feille, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen, Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Jia Starr Brown, First Covenant Church, Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, Temple Israel, the Very Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund, Cathedral Church of St. Mark, and Rev. Justin Schroeder, First Universalist Church.

4. **What are the criteria for selecting fund recipients and how will they be made?** Grants will be made to agencies and partners in communities of color and in the indigenous community that are working directly with those most affected by systemic racism, upon recommendation of members of the Allocation Team or downtown senior clergy, or by recommendation or request from community groups. Priority will be given to grants that provide immediate, urgently needed support to communities of color and indigenous communities. Grants will be one-time and not recurring or long-term support.

5. **What amount will the grants be?** Grants will generally not exceed $5,000.
6. **Can any organization apply for the funds and how?** Minneapolis-based organizations interested in applying should contact one of the interfaith leaders listed below with 1) the name and address of your organization, 2) a brief description of the need, 3) intended use of the funds, 4) and the amount requested. Or, you may contact Tim Hart-Andersen, Senior Minister at Westminster Presbyterian Church: [Tim@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:Tim@wpc-mpls.org), or Laurie Pound-Feille, [laurie.pound-feille@fcc.mpls.org](mailto:laurie.pound-feille@fcc.mpls.org).

7. **Is there a timeframe for when the funds must be used?** The intent is that the funds be spent as quickly as possible, for immediate impact.

8. **Does the grantee need to report how the funds will/have been used?** Yes, grantees will be asked to provide a report of fund use.

9. **How will donors find out how the funds have been used and by whom?** With permission of the grantee, Westminster will keep on the MIRF web page an up-to-date list of all groups that have received funds, with a brief note of the intended use. It can be viewed here: [https://www.westminstermpls.org/stewardship/stewardship/mirf/](https://www.westminstermpls.org/stewardship/stewardship/mirf/)

10. **Is this Minneapolis only?** Yes. Interested parties may check with the St. Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN) to see if they have a comparable program.

11. **How long will the fund be in place?** Either until the unique or immediate need diminishes, or donations cease.

12. **Is there a target amount to be raised?** No, although there has been a generous response to date, $140,134 from 333 donors as of November 5, 2020.

13. **How is it being promoted?** Interfaith leaders are building awareness in various ways through their individual congregations.

14. **How can I participate?** You may donate online at [www.westminstermpls.org/stewardship](http://www.westminstermpls.org/stewardship) or by sending a check (note: with MIRF in the memo line) payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403. Gifts will be tax-deductible.
15. **Why are the funds being sent to Westminster?** Westminster Presbyterian is the fiscal sponsor of the MIRF and will receive and account for all funds donated. Westminster will not charge an administrative fee, although gifts made online will be charged a credit card fee. As previously outlined, funds will be disbursed according to direction provided by the Allocation Team.

16. **Does an organization have to be faith-based to receive funds?** No. Any Minneapolis-based non-profit or community organization that is involved in meeting urgent needs in communities of color or indigenous peoples may apply.

17. **Whom may I contact for more information?** For overall information, contact any of the interfaith clergy listed below or Mary Hess, Westminster’s Director of Stewardship (mhess@wpc-mpls.org). For information on processing your gift, contact Kelsey Noack (knoack@wpc-mpls.org).
**Statement on the Killing of George Floyd**

We, the below signed members of the Downtown Interfaith Senior Clergy, condemn in the strongest possible terms the May 25th killing by a police officer of an unarmed African American man in Minneapolis. As leaders of faith traditions that include Judaism, Islam, Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, and Humanism, we affirm our common conviction that all life is sacred and that every human being is our neighbor, worthy to be loved. Not killed. Our hearts break, going out to the family and to those in our community who continue to bear the historical brunt of racially-motivated oppression that too often leads to violence and even death. In a press conference, Mayor Jacob Frey phrased it well: “Being black in America should not be a death sentence.” We all say amen! We call for a swift response by city officials and Minneapolis law enforcement leaders, and a deeper addressing of the systemic issues that led to this and similar killings. We say “enough and more than enough!” Law enforcement must interact with all our neighbors in all our neighborhoods fairly and equally. Might we finally learn from this most recent tragic incident? We must. We are all called to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Signed,

Imam Makram Nu’Man El-Amin, Masjid An-Nur
Rev. Dr. David Breeden, First Unitarian Society
Rev. Dr. Dan Collison, First Covenant Church
Rev. Jen Crow, First Universalist Church
Rev. Dr. Laurie Feille, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
The Rev. Al Gallmon, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
Imam Dr. Hamdy El-Sawaf Islamic Community Center of Minnesota/MasjidAl-Imin
Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Father Kevin Kenney, St. Olaf Roman Catholic Church
The Very Reverend Paul Lebens-Englund, St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
Rev. Dr. Paula Northwood, Plymouth Congregational Church
Rev. Peter Nycklemoe, Central Lutheran Church
Rev. Judy Zabel, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, Temple Israel