

**Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education of NYC  
Vine NYC Branch Grant Application 2018**



THE VINE NYC BRANCH GRANT APPLICATION

Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education of New York City (LMHE) is a non-profit organization, affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), recognized by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS), and working in partnership with ecumenical partner churches in full communion with the ELCA. The mission of LMHE is to connect New York City college and graduate students with one another, local congregations, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do this by building a network of big hearted, open minded campus ministries where students experience God's unconditional love and are empowered to explore, claim, and live Christian faith.

LMHE's citywide campus ministry network, called The Vine NYC, is a missional collaboration between LMHE and local congregations and faith organizations seeking to serve students who live and study in their neighborhoods. Students meet regularly in local "branch" communities for worship, study, community building, and service and justice work. In addition to gathering in local branches, students come together throughout the year from across branches for larger citywide events and programs.

LMHE is eager to support partners in building local branch ministries in their neighborhoods through our Branch Grant Program. Branch Grants are seed grants that provide start-up funding for several years. The funding gradually declines over the grant period as the partner builds their capacity to support the ministry on its own. These grants are intended to kick-start new student ministries and help partners identify and move toward sustainable models for ongoing campus ministry work in their neighborhoods.

The Branch Grant is open to applications from ELCA and LC-MS organizations (e.g., congregations, social service agencies, student organizations) as well as organizations and ecumenical partners in full communion with the ELCA. It is expected that all applicants are capable of developing a ministry within the five boroughs of New York City.

We seek applicants who propose creative, new ministries among college and graduate students that will:

- Help students explore Christian faith, expand their minds, pursue justice, and create community;
- Nurture faith formation and spiritual friendships among participants;
- Have the potential to invite new people into lives of Christian discipleship;
- Collaborate with other organizations or congregations to strengthen participation;
- Encourage active participation in citywide Vine events and programs;
- Work collaboratively with LMHE staff to support both the local branches and the Vine network as a whole.
- Exhibit an ability to be good stewards for any funds received from LMHE.

The Board of LMHE is seeking true partner organizations and is committed to working with our partners to develop thriving Branches. **Grants are awarded for three-year periods. Total grant amounts will not exceed \$5000 over three years. The Grant application deadline is May 1, 2018.** Funds are distributed to awardees by June 15, 2018. If God may be leading your organization to build a new ministry among college students in NYC, we invite you to prayerfully consider submitting a Branch Grant application.

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Applications should be no longer than three pages long. Be sure to complete parts A through D.

Application Due Date: May 1, 2018

Response to applicants will be received: June 15, 2018

Funds for year will be distributed: July 15, 2018

Submit applications to: Rev. Becca Seely, Executive Director,  
pastor@thevinenyc.org

### A. Contact Information:

Organizational Name:

Primary Contact Name:

Position:

Mailing Address:

Organization Telephone:

Primary Contact Telephone:

Primary Contact Email:

### B. Branch Grant Application Agreements

The Vine Network's branches and citywide community are designed to support each other in ministry growth. As such, Branch grantees will be expected to help plan and encourage their students to attend citywide events and programs. It will also be expected that Branch grantees will work to coordinate their communications efforts with The Vine NYC, including connecting websites, social media, and branding, and contributing content and event listings to newsletters and e-letters.

LMHE values inclusivity and expects its grantees to actively welcome all college and graduate students, regardless of race, color, religious tradition, creed, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or marital status.

LMHE expects the funds distributed to be utilized in a way consistent with the proposed budget. **Changes in the budget can be requested and require the approval of the LMHE board if they affect more than ten percent of the original budget.**

LMHE is committed to assisting the grantee to develop a thriving campus ministry. We will offer the support of the Executive Director in the areas of program development, outreach and communications, with particulars to be mutually identified in response to needs in the grantee's context. Grantees agree to utilize this support and work collaboratively with LMHE staff so that the branch and wider Vine network may grow and thrive.

**Branch grantees will provide a written report to the LMHE Board by May 1 of each year of the grant period**, with possible attendance at an LMHE Board Meeting as requested. No additional grant funds will be distributed without appropriate reports submitted.

By signing this document, I agree to uphold the agreements above if selected as a partner organization to become a Branch of The Vine NYC.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Organizational Name:

**C. Please answer the following questions. Be sure to include the name of your organization on each page of the responses.**

1. Briefly describe your organization's mission and current ministries.
2. Describe the vision for ministry among college and graduate students that you propose to develop in your local context. How will you engage college and graduate students with LMHE's mission stated in the cover sheet?
3. Leadership Plan. Who will be the primary leader of the ministry? How will you develop leadership among the students themselves?
4. Plan for outreach and invitation. How will you reach potential participants? How will you invite college-age people who might not attend a church?
5. Potential partners and collaborators. Are there other congregations or organizations with whom you can collaborate to strengthen and grow this ministry?

6. Outcomes. What are your goals for this ministry? How will you measure these goals?
7. Collaboration. How can LMHE accompany you in building up this branch? What initial and ongoing support do you anticipate needing from LMHE (staffing, resources, communication, etc.)?

**D. Additional Information:**

8. **Provide a budget for proposed ministry, including income and expenses.** Please include resources and in-kind contributions that your organization is willing to provide. Grant periods are three years with total grant amounts over that period not exceeding \$5,000.
9. **List of board of directors/congregation council members and executive officers, as well proof of 501 (c) 3 non-profit status.** (If applying as an informal organization, such as a student group, please provide a letter of support from a sponsoring institution, such as a college.)
10. **Most recent financial report.** If none is available, please provide a note of explanation.

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Questions? Contact Rev. Becca Seely, Executive Director, at [pastor@thevinenyc.org](mailto:pastor@thevinenyc.org).

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