

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Technology Grants Now Available Up to \$2,000**



I don't like cleaning, but nothing motivates me more to clean my home than two words, "company's coming." Bathrooms will be scrubbed, and the dining room table dusted. Now make it a major holiday...furniture will be moved, and the basement cleaned out. I may even have Jay paint a room.

Well, friends, there's nothing like a pandemic to motivate our communities of faith to take seriously the importance of incorporating technology into our ministries. It doesn't matter if we are large or small; urban or rural; traditional or super traditional (let's just keep that one real;) our ability to create online community is essential. And it needs to happen right now.

Many of us, including myself, are scrambling to cobble together equipment and resources so that we can continue "do" church in new ways and most importantly, stay socially connected when we must remain physically distant. Now some of the presbytery's pastors and lay leaders are fully equipped and up to speed. Others, like myself, find ourselves on the low end of the learning curve. But we are learning and learning fast! We are learning live stream options, recording videos, setting up social media accounts, Zooming meetings, and MailChimp. We are doing it!

Here's the thing: You may be learning how to create all kinds of online resources and want to do them well, but there's a hiccup...no equipment or limited equipment. Blessedly I have a teenager (an avid Instagram/TikTok poster) willing to loan me her tripod and ring light, but it I don't have a microphone. Furthermore, this equipment is my kid's and not the church's. The church should have equipment for its own use just like bibles, tables and chairs. Our technology needs might look a little differently from each other's and all church budgets are tight. To that end the Congregational Vitality Team is making funds available for the purchase of equipment to get your church online and creating effective resources for your community of faith.

Grants of up to \$2000 are available. When? Now. The process for approval is simple. Send an email to [pastorlizkanerva@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlizkanerva@gmail.com) with the list of equipment being purchased and cost. Better yet, purchase the equipment and send copies of your receipts. Lastly, we have people in our presbytery who can coach you regarding what to purchase. You will not be rewiring your whole sanctuary and installing new lighting. You will, with a few pieces of equipment, will be communicating with your community of faith, your neighbors, your town effectively and well. And, you may just be doing it from your kitchen table.

God bless you and the important work we endeavor to do for the glory of God and God's people. Take care of yourselves: Wash your hands. Stay hydrated. Get some exercise. Stay well.

In the peace of Christ,  
*Liz Kanerva*