

FAQ for Website Development Grants

What are Website Development Grants and what do they provide?

Website Development Grants pay for an online training class through UMC Training that will teach you how to build your own Wordpress site, provide one (1) year of web hosting, and one year of domain name use (your website address) for local United Methodist Churches who do not currently have a website or who wish to rebuild their website on WordPress.

How can my church get approved for a website development grant?

United Methodist Churches who do not currently have an online presence in the form of a website or who wish to rebuild their website on WordPress can apply to receive this grant. The application will be open until November 1 each year or until all grant slots are full. All grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

What if I have a two-point charge or more?

If a two or three point charge needs a website, we encourage you to have only one website between them in order to lessen the work of updating on the web manager. If you feel each church needs its own online presence, you may apply separately for each church. You will need to use a different email for each application. We suggest using a church named email instead of an individual's email for this purpose (i.e., firstumcmaintown@gmail.com).

How long do I have to complete the online class?

We are requiring all website development grant churches to register for the *Your Church Website: Rethinking Your New Front Door* online training class within six (6) weeks of receiving their promo code and to complete their online training class within three (3) months of grant approval.

How many people can take the online training?

You will establish only one login for the training class but you may have as many people take the class as you like. They will all need to use the same login credentials (user name, email and password) as only one training class registration is allowed per grant. Please use a generic email address to sign up for the class so that the login is connected to the church and not an individual's account. Only one team member at a time may be logged into the training course on the same login credentials.

What type of site will I be building?

Our training class helps you learn to build and maintain a website using [WordPress](#).

The grant covers the cost for the SILVER web hosting package on <https://umchurches.org>. This package includes up to 5 email accounts and 2GB of storage.

What is web hosting?

Web hosting is a service that allows organizations to post a website on to the Internet. A web host, or web hosting service provider, is a business that provides the technologies and services needed for the website to be viewed online. Websites are hosted, or stored, on special computers called servers. When Internet users want to view your website, they type your website address into their browser. Their computer will then connect to your server and your webpages will be delivered to them through the browser.

Can we keep our present URL (website address)?

Yes. If you already have a URL (aka, website address or domain name) that you want to keep, you can have it transferred to the new site you will build through the training class. You will receive separate instructions on how this works once your grant is approved. Please make sure to include your URL on your grant application.

Tips for transferring your URL: If you have just registered your URL within the past 6 months, most of the time your provider will not let you transfer. Check with the company you are currently with before you do this.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are transferring your URL, please understand that you will have to rebuild your entire website on a WordPress platform. Transferring a URL does not mean that the content transfers with it. All pages and functions will have to be rebuilt.

What will the cost be after the grant year is over?

Web hosting and your domain name for your church website will be covered for a period of one (1) year. After that year is completed, you will have the option of continuing this service through UMCOM at your own cost. The Silver web hosting package can be paid monthly (\$5 per month) or annually with a 15% discount (\$51.00 per year). The renewing of your domain name will be between \$9-\$11 depending on the name you have chosen. You will receive an email from our web hosting team thirty (3) days before your year is up to give you the option of renewing or cancelling your account.

Can I use my church logo on the website?

Yes. There should be a space for you to upload your church logo depending on the website template you choose.

What if I don't have a church logo?

UMCOM has a branding team that would be glad to build a UMC branded logo for you to use on your website. Please let us know if you would like to use this service.

Can I add video to my page with silver package?

Yes, the best thing to do is host the video on You Tube and embed so that the video doesn't use any extra storage space.

Will I have the ability to livestream?

Yes, but you might want to look into your bandwidth capabilities.

Can online giving be put on my page?

Yes, but you will have to establish the links to an account for the online giving to point to. Piryx.com offers a free online giving site for non-profits but they do take 4% of all transactions to cover their costs.

What is the grant process once we are approved for a grant?

Once your church has been approved, the following steps will take place:

1. You will receive an acceptance email with this FAQ attached for future reference. UMCOM will provide you with two codes: a training code to use when signing up for your online web class and a code to use to "purchase" your web hosting and domain name during the class.
2. You will also receive instructions that will walk you through the web hosting purchasing process. Please follow these instructions carefully!
3. If you are establishing a new website, please email localchurchgrants@umcom.org with your new domain name (website address) once it is established.

4. Once the training is completed and your website is built, UMCOM will continue to provide web hosting for your website for a period of one year. This year begins on the day that you “purchase” your web hosting on umcchurches.org.
5. You will receive a reminder from our web hosting department alerting you when your free year is almost up and offering you pricing options if you want to continue with our web hosting services. The church will be responsible for any further cost related to web hosting or domain name purchasing from this point forward.
6. You will also receive a link to a short grant evaluation survey. Once you complete this survey, your grant folder will be considered closed.
7. UMCOM will alert your Annual Conference staff of all churches awarded with grants in 2017.

What if I need help?

TRAINING: Your online course moderator will be [Paul Black](#), please contact Paul at pblack@igrc.org if you have any questions while working through this course.

If you are experiencing any issues with the **Moodle** training site, please send an email to training@umcom.org.

If you find any errors within the modules while going through this course, please send an email to training@umcom.org.

WEB HOSTING: If you experience any issues after signing up for your **WordPress Hosting** account, please submit [support tickets](#) by logging onto <https://umcchurches.org>, click on Support at the top and then Submit Ticket.

For Frequently Ask Questions about Web Hosting: [FAQ](#)