

"Keep the Spark Alive" Fund

The work of social change is not for the faint of heart. The humanitarian troubles of our world and the deep structures of deeply entrenched injustice can feel like a seemingly immovable mountain. To do the work in which many of you, our partners, are engaged requires continually tapping into the deeper well of soul to avoid burn-out and losing the original spark behind that work. Since our inception the Imago Dei Fund has been committed to soul care, particularly focused on bringing deeper soul work into the mainstream of the church in the greater Boston area. Increasingly, however, we have come to recognize the importance of this work as it applies to all the organizations with which we are so privileged to partner.

The IDF **"Keep the Spark Alive"** fund is designed to support your efforts in nurturing the inner lives of your staff. We recognize that it is an ongoing struggle for non-profits to keep your books balanced, your lights on, and your programs running. Often the intangible needs of organizational health fall down the priority list in the tyranny of the urgent. While most of this happens outside of work, there are things that can be done to create a more soul-nurturing work environment.

The intent of these funds is to support you in your ongoing work of assessing and nurturing the spiritual vitality of your organization. There are many possible ways in which these funds can be used; we encourage you to determine what makes sense for your organization. Examples of "soul care" efforts that could fall within the parameters of this fund include: staff soul-care retreats, silent days, individual spiritual direction, trauma care, and counseling.

Grant parameters:

- (1) Only current Imago Dei Fund grantees are eligible; funding is above and beyond your current grant award.
- (2) Grantees are eligible for one "Spark" grant each calendar year.
- (3) Funds are designated to the care of the inner lives ("soul care") of your staff, or in the case of our church partners, key leaders within your church.
- (4) These funds are not intended for programmatic, planning, or training purposes.
- (5) Grants range from \$500-\$5,000, depending on the size of the organization, the type of soul care activities being proposed, and the number of people participating in the proposed activities.

Interested grantees are invited to submit an online proposal via the [IDF Grant Management System](#).

Thank you for all you do. Be well.