AN INITIATIVE OF WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH INVITES BOLD IDEAS FOR DOUGH SOCIAL VENTURE INCUBATOR

Initiative pairs $250,000 in funding with coaching, professional expertise, and a community invested in helping social entrepreneurs grow

WAYZATA, Minn. — November 13, 2026 — What can happen when a church puts its people, resources, and relationships behind someone's idea for a better community? Wayzata Community Church (WCC) is inviting individuals to explore that possibility through the next cycle of **DOUGH**, its social venture incubator.

DOUGH helps people with innovative ideas address social challenges by strengthening their ventures through hands-on coaching, business planning, and connections with skilled volunteers. Selected grant recipients will receive funding from a $250,000 prize pool.

Throughout the process, participants work alongside WCC congregation members who contribute professional expertise, experience, and networks. These relationships help entrepreneurs refine their ideas, develop business plans, strengthen their pitches, and build connections that can support their work beyond the funding process.

"DOUGH is about more than awarding $250,000 in funding," said **Rev. Danielle Jones**, Co-Lead Minister at WCC. *"It's about asking what can happen when a church puts its people, resources, relationships, and faith behind leaders with bold new ideas for making our community better. We're opening up our congregation's experience, skills, and connections to help social entrepreneurs strengthen their ideas and bring them to life."*

Applicants do not need to propose faith-based projects. DOUGH welcomes ideas that reflect the church's commitment to justice, love, redemption, community, service, and reconciliation, with room for a wide range of approaches to strengthening communities.

"A promising idea shouldn't be overlooked because someone can't afford professional support or doesn't yet have a polished business plan," said **Rev. Dustin Janzen** of WCC. *"DOUGH allows us to meet people earlier in that journey, listen to what they need, and bring our congregation's skills and relationships alongside them. As we help social entrepreneurs grow their ideas, they help us grow in our understanding of our neighbors and what's possible when we work together to serve our community."*

Previous DOUGH recipients include Edith's House, Bricks to Bread, and Wildflyer Coffee. Each illustrates the opportunity to bring a distinct vision and experience to addressing social challenges.

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The relationships formed through DOUGH also enrich the congregation. Volunteers can use their skills to serve their neighbors while learning from entrepreneurs whose experiences and perspectives deepen the church's understanding of community work.

Applications are due January 5, 2027. To learn more about DOUGH, participation expectations, and the application process, visit doughgrants.org.

About Wayzata Community Church: Wayzata Community Church (WCC) is a congregation of nearly 3,000 people in Wayzata, Minnesota, rooted in the United Church of Christ tradition. Guided by its vision to inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus, WCC welcomes people of all backgrounds and puts faith into action through worship, spiritual growth, courageous conversation, and service. The church shares its gifts and resources to strengthen communities locally and globally. Learn more at wayzatacommunitychurch.org.

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