A total of $14.3 million was distributed, some of which was from commitments approved in previous years.

Strengthening rural United Methodist churches and the communities they serve by forming church leaders, building congregational capacity and fostering community engagement.
### Candidates for Rural Church Grants

- United Methodist churches that serve rural North Carolina communities
- The North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences and districts of the United Methodist Church
- Duke University Divinity School
- Retired United Methodist pastors and their families on record with the North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences

### 2017 Grantmaking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Number of Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Church Development</td>
<td>$6.1 million</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Leadership</td>
<td>$6.7 million</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational Outreach</td>
<td>$1.6 million</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Examples of Grants

- **Rural Church Development**: A grant to First United Methodist Church in Taylorsville, North Carolina, will help the congregation repurpose a car dealership into a sanctuary and fellowship hall, and use the extra space for mission programs and outreach.

- **Clergy Leadership**: A new project linking rural United Methodist clergy in North Carolina and the Institute for Emerging Issues will give clergy and lay leaders the resources to identify and understand local issues, and help them take informed ideas and solutions back home.

- **Congregational Outreach**: In the rural mountains of western North Carolina, Matt’s Ministry offers food bags for children, food delivery to seniors, a food pantry for neighbors in need and free books for preschoolers and their parents. A grant to Ledford’s Chapel United Methodist Church is helping the program expand.