



The vision of Churches Planting Ministries is to see:

- ...every congregation planting ministries of compassion and justice,
- ...every ministry seeking God's transformation for the poor and those at-risk,
- ...every congregation finding renewal as It reaches out with the love of Christ.

## Grant Information Sheet

In a continuing desire to follow Christ and obey God's command to love and care for His children in need, the Evangelical Covenant Church and its Conferences are encouraging local churches to engage in new ministries of compassion and justice to address the needs of the poor and at-risk in their communities. Reaching out with the love of Christ revitalizes the life of congregations as members follow Jesus' teaching and example and build relationships with the poor in their community.

Biblical passages such as Isaiah 58:6-14, II Corinthians 5:17-19, and James 1:27 give voice to how compassion and justice ministries manifest God's love to the poor and at-risk. Throughout the Bible, encouragement, commandment, and warning are given regarding showing mercy and attending to the rights of the poor, the widow, the orphan, the alien, the prisoner, the leper, the refugee, the chronically sick, and others on the margin of society.

Ministry incorporates word and deed, social action and evangelism. God seeks the best for His children, which means transformation for both those who are in need of God's healing love and for his church. So our ministries seek more than mere maintenance. Churches Planting Ministries supports ministries of compassion and justice; churches may decide which category their ministry falls under. Compassion ministries work to help hurting people. Justice ministries work to end that which hurts people. Compassion addresses the needs of people and alleviates suffering. Justice works to right wrongs, or to do advocacy. Transformation also becomes our own story as we extend ourselves in the love and power of Jesus. Our vision for ministry expects that God will bring revitalization and renewal to our churches as we become faithful to ministering with "the least, the last, and the lost." (Matthew 25) Therefore, Churches Planting Ministries grants are given with a priority on increasing relationships between people from the congregation with poor and at-risk people in the community.

## Overview of Churches Planting Ministries Grants

*The following grants are available to help start a new or expanded compassion and/or justice ministry through a Covenant church for transformation ministry to poor or at risk people in the community, it is anticipated that this will be a one time grant, but that the ministry learning will be used in a long term effort of the local church.*

**Seed Grant:** for a local church beginning a new compassion and/or justice ministry with poor or at-risk people.

**CDC Grant:** for a local church beginning or working through a Community Development Corporation or agency to do ministry with poor or at-risk people.

**Partnership Grant:** for two or more local churches that are working together to do a ministry with poor or at-risk people.

**Organizing Grant:** for a local church interested in empowering others through community organizing - addressing justice and advocacy issues with poor or at-risk people.

**Training Grant:** for a local church interested in sending individuals to education or training events, or sponsoring a similar event in their church that will have a direct impact on supporting a church's ministry with poor or at-risk people.