



Churches Planting Ministries Grant Application for Community Organizing

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.**

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 our Conference 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 our 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.

Grant application information

1. The grants that will be available to help in the starting of new outreach ministries by a Covenant Church for transformation ministry to poor or at-risk people in the community or a near by.
2. It is anticipated that this will be a one time grant, but that the ministry will be planned as a long term effort of the local church.
3. Funds are not to be used for salaries.
4. Approval for funding involves a visit from a Churches Planting Ministries Consultant who will assist as a coach and in discernment of ministry direction.
5. The funds will be sent to individual Covenant churches selected to receive the grants. The funds are intended to mobilize Covenant people towards ministry and are not meant to be used primarily by individuals, not-for-profit organizations, or other agencies.
6. With notification of grant funding, a report form will be sent to each receiving church that must be returned to the conference office relating how funds have been spent and what has been accomplished. These reports are critical to our task of evaluating overall ministry directions for the Churches Planting Ministries initiative around the Covenant.
7. Please fill out the responses on the application form in the space provided. In submitting the application please include the form, additional pages requested, and a church brochure or a one-page description of the church and the community. Please submit all items together.
8. The grant applications shall be submitted to your regional conference office.

Churches Planting Ministries Grant Application for a congregation pursuing community organizing

This grant is designed for those churches seeking to develop the justice ministry of organizing. Community organizing is less of a service ministry and more of an empowering ministry which helps gives voice to a community or housing development who are not receiving justice. (see Nehemiah 5 for a biblical example.) Typically, congregations engage in partnership with a community organizing network which offers training and assistance.

1. Conference: _____ Church: _____

Community Organization: _____

Ministry leader or contact person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

2. Amount of money being requested: _____

3. What do you believe God is doing in your church and in your community?

4. Has this ministry begun? If so, when? If no, when do you anticipate it beginning?

5. Please describe the organizing ministry envisioned by the church. What is the target group?

6. How many people from your church do you anticipate becoming involved through the possibility of this grant? _____ Explain how they will have opportunity for relationship building with the people who are being reached.

7. Please describe the structure for the ministry's management. Include what types of applicable ministry experience people who are involved bring to the ministry. Include a short description of the leader's ministry experience.

8. How will the requested funds be used? (Funds are not to be used for salaries.) Please attach a ministry budget showing anticipated income and expenses.

9. What are your other anticipated funding sources? How are you expecting to be funded beyond this one time, non-renewable grant?

10. What will be your definition of success, and how will you evaluate whether you are accomplishing what you want to do?

11. How will those you are reaching through the organizing outreach be encouraged to consider becoming part of the congregation?

12. Do you anticipate leadership or management being shared with others outside the church in one or more partnerships? Is so, please explain how it will be coordinated.

13. Will there be any anticipated long-term relationship with the participants?

14. Will you do volunteer training/screening? If so, please describe how it will be done?

15. If your application were funded, what payout schedule would you want? Would you accept less than the full amount requested?

16. Date this application was approved by action of your church council or board: _____

Signatures:

Ministry Leader

Pastor

Church Treasurer

Date submitted