**Missouri District LCMS Missions**

**Mini Grant Application Process**

**Introduction:** The purpose of a mini grant is to provide a simple process to help congregations start new mission initiatives. Mini grants support four categories of such initiatives:

1. **Community Engagement:** Initiatives where a community need has been identified and volunteers from the congregation are directly involved in ongoing service (more than an event) building external relationships in their communities as Christian witnesses.
2. **Church Worker Pipeline:** Discipleship initiatives of equipping and mobilizing people to exercise their Christian Vocation. Churches applying are intentionally committed to an ongoing process of praying, identifying, equipping, and mobilizing “workers for the harvest.” These workers may be future community missionaries, ministry volunteers, lay leaders, and/or rostered church workers. Funding supports initiatives where such individuals are intentionally sent to start new mission initiatives like an internship.
3. **Multi-Ethnic Ministry:** Initiatives where congregations are intentionally taking steps to build relationships and build bridges with local first- and second-generation immigrants. Such initiatives include activities that are cross-cultural in the host congregation(s).
4. **Shared Ministry:** Congregations who intentionally collaborate for greater mission opportunities in community engagement, family discipleship, church planting and re-planting. These initiatives demonstrate sharing which is inter-congregational and not merely sharing a church worker. Congregations are demonstrating a creative stewardship of their gifts together and inspire other churches to walk together in shared ministries.

**Limitations:** Mini Grants support the District’s strategic plan and are focused on congregations.

1. Mini Grants are available for application at any time; however, funding is contingent upon the availability of funds.
2. Mini Grantsrange from $500 - $4,000 in a 12-month period. Renewals are limited to a total of $10,000 over a three-year period.
3. Mini Grant **requests** may not exceed 50% of the project cost.
4. Mini Grants are congregation based. They are not available to RSOs, networks, educational institutions, or community non-profits, however, congregations may sponsor and partner in shared ministry initiatives with other organizations.
5. Mini Grants require quarterly reports for the duration of the project and at least one “mission story” appropriate for publication.

**Mini Grant Application Checklist**

**Application Instructions**

 This paper provides a checklist of 9 items to submit as your application. The mini grant application must be submitted in a Word (or compatible digital) document to Director of Missions, Rev. Bill Geis by email (bill.geis@mo.lcms.org).

**Application Checklist**

1. **Organization Name and Address**
*This is the legal name and physical address where checks and documentation may be sent to appropriate administrative contacts.*

2. **Grant Contact Person**

 *Provide the name, email, and phone contact information for grant communications. If the phone is a cell number, include permission to receive texts.*

3. **Vision Narrative***Provide a “high-level tour” (150-300 words) of this proposal. Describe your vision for a future where lives are impacted by the Gospel through this initiative.*

*4.* **Making the Case** *Provide a case statement for this initiative and how this proposal aligns with one or more criteria for mini grants (See Introduction).*

*5.* **Action Steps and Timeline**

*Provide a simple description of major steps and proposed timeline for initiation and completion.*

*6.* **Congregation Support**

*Describe why your congregation wants to launch this project and how members are already informed and engaged.*

7. **Goal**

*Describe the anticipated impact of the project. What do you want to see done, experienced or grown because of your church’s involvement? How will you know if you have achieved the goal?*

8. **Grant Amount Requested***Provide a simple budget for the project including:*

* *Grant dollars requested.*
* *Sources of additional income.*
* *Anticipated expenses.*
* *What will happen if District funding is not available or less than requested?*

9. **Signature Endorsement:***Signature of two congregational officers (not the grant contact person) and of your pastor, vacancy pastor or circuit visitor as many be appropriate to the circumstance.*