

**Missional Challenge Fund Guide
Akron Mennonite Church
2005**

Akron Mennonite Church will be fully engaged in God's mission in a broken world as we are called, equipped and sent by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in life. Shaped by the gifts and vision of our members, we will keep Christ and church at the center of our lives as we reach out to neighbors near and far and witness to the world around us through an Anabaptist-Mennonite expression of faith. (AMC Vision Statement)

The purpose of the Missional Challenge Fund is to encourage the personal involvement of Akron Mennonite Church's members in carrying out this vision. Akron Mennonite Church places in its annual budget a fund designed to promote direct "missional" activity. Missional activity "reaches out to neighbors near and far in expressing the love of God in word and deed." The goal is to have financial resources available to respond to special projects that arise out of the gifts and vision of our members during the year. It provides a means for the congregation to be "called, equipped and sent."

Missional Challenge Fund Guidelines

- **Projects proposed should be of an outreach nature with provision for direct AMC member participation.**
- **The Missional Challenge Fund proposal should be submitted in support of specific projects, but not for day-to-day administrative and overhead costs of the sponsoring organization.**
- **AMC members are not to benefit monetarily from a Missional Challenge Fund grant other than being reimbursed for travel or other incidental costs incurred in undertaking a project.**
- **Project proposals should usually be in the range of \$500 to \$2000 with a maximum of \$5000 for any single project.**
- **A brief written proposal containing all information called for on the Missional Challenge Fund Proposal Form (available from the AMC Office) should be submitted to the Chair of the Outreach Commission for review and consideration.**
- **Outreach Commission will provide assistance to applicants by discussing ideas and proposal requirements as requested by proposers.**
- **Proposals may be submitted at any point in the church's fiscal year, but should be submitted in sufficient time to allow review and processing before the proposed start of the project.**

Administrative Procedures

- **Outreach Commission manages the Missional Challenge Fund; all proposals should be submitted to the Chair to start the review and approval process.**

- **Project Proposals up to \$1000 are reviewed and approved by the Outreach Chair and the three Outreach Cluster Chairpersons.**
- **Project Proposals over \$1000 and up to \$2500 are reviewed by the Missional Challenge Fund Review Board consisting of the Outreach Commission Chair, the Ministry Team Committee Chair, the Church Treasurer (representing Stewardship Committee) and the Pastor.**
- **Project Proposal over \$2500 are reviewed by the Missional Challenge Fund Review Board and, if accepted, are referred to Congregational Council for approval.**
- **Should a proposal be judged not approvable at any level of review, the proposers will be notified of the reasons the proposal was not approved and will be given the opportunity to revise the submission.**
- **After approval, the congregation member(s) should work with the Church Administrator to determine the most appropriate ways and schedule for dispersal of the funds.**
- **Funds awarded from the Missional Challenge Fund can be expended across church budget years.**

Missional Challenge Fund Proposal Requirements

- **Who/what will the grant support? Is an organization involved?**
- **What is the "missional" nature of the request?**
- **Identify which AMC members will be involved in the project and what their level of involvement will be.**
- **What is the schedule for the project?**
- **Prepare a budget proposal that clearly identified the funds that are being requested and how they will be spent as well as any other resources that will be made available to support the project (example: such as a member paying for their own travel costs or an organization sponsoring some of the project costs)**

For additional information or to discuss ideas, contact:

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