



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

January 2012

To: Congregations considering application to Fund for Mission

Dear friends:

Thank you for your interest in the Fund for Mission. The goal of the fund is to support and strengthen innovative evangelism efforts by congregations in our synod. You may apply for funding support for a mission effort by a single congregation or congregations working together.

Enclosed (or attached) are an application information and instructions sheet and the 2012 application form. The information and instructions sheet gives you the guidelines for grant applications. Please use these guidelines, first, to determine whether your ministry proposal fits the criteria for a Fund for Mission grant and, then, to help you put your proposal together.

Allow me to highlight a couple of things from the application instructions.

- You must include in your application both a copy of your congregation's budget for the current year and a budget for the project itself. Without these, the board cannot consider your application.
- Your congregation must submit a parochial report for the year prior to the year in which you are applying for a Fund for Mission grant. In other words, to apply for a grant this year, you must submit your 2011 parochial report. Parochial reports help us, as a synod, to get a sense of how things are going with our congregations, and your congregation's participation in this process demonstrates your partnership with the rest of the congregations in the synod. Because the application requires a hard copy of the parochial report, be sure to print a copy before submitting your report online.
- A copy of the application with the pastor's signature must be mailed or hand-delivered to the synod office, postmarked no later than **March 9, 2012** or hand-delivered by that date.

After we receive your application, copies will be distributed to members of the Fund for Mission Board. The board will meet in May to decide on grants, and you will be notified of decisions following that meeting. Grant recipients will also be announced in synod publications. Grant money will be distributed by July 1.

If there is more information I can give you, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please feel free to contact me ([wmiller@mcselca.org](mailto:wmill@mcselca.org) or 773-248-0021, ext. 11) or Vance Blackfox (vblackfox@mcselca.org; 773-248-0021, ext. 14).

In Christ,

Wayne N. Miller
Bishop

**Metropolitan Chicago Synod
FUND FOR MISSION
2012 Application**

Please be sure to attach a project budget for the proposed initiative to your application. Also attach a hard copy of your 2011 parochial report and your 2012 budget.

Date:

Project Name:

Congregation(s):

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Total grant requested:

Annual budget of congregation:

Brief description of the project (how grant will be used):

Pastor's signature:

Pastor's name (printed or typed):

1. Describe the characteristics/dynamics of your setting.

2. Describe your proposed evangelism project and its purpose. What does your congregation intend to do?

3. Describe the overall mission strategy of your congregation and how the proposed initiative contributes to this strategy.

4. How does the proposed evangelism initiative help your congregation(s) carry out the mission of calling people into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? In what specific and measurable ways do you expect the worshiping community to be affected by this ministry?

5. What will the congregation contribute to the budget of the project—financially and in other ways? (Be sure to show this contribution on the project budget.)

6. A Fund for Mission grant is starter money for a new evangelism initiative. If the initiative succeeds, it is hoped that it will continue and be financially supported by the congregation. How would the congregation sustain this mission effort beyond the period of the grant?

- 7a. 2011 mission support (synod benevolence) of your congregation:
- 7b: 2011 congregational income (all sources):
- 7c: Mission support as a percentage of income (7a divided by 7b):
- 7d: 2012 mission support intent:
- 7e: Is your congregation, as part of its partnership in mission, willing to increase its mission support (synod benevolence) for next year (2013) in the amount of 1% of total congregational income?
- 8. Should your congregation receive a grant, will you participate in an evaluation process that includes a written report?

Application checklist:

- a. Be sure all questions in the application are answered.
- b. Enclose a project budget showing both income sources and expenditures.
- c. Enclose a copy of the congregation's 2011 Parochial Report.
- d. Enclose a copy of the congregation's 2012 Mission Support Intent form.
- e. Enclose a copy of the congregation's 2012 budget.
- f. Be sure that the application is signed on the first page.

Mail your completed application to:

Fund for Mission
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
1420 W. Dickens Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614-3004

The application should be postmarked no later than March 9, 2012. You may also hand-deliver your application to the synod office by that date.

Note: You may also want to send an e-mail to Vance Blackfox at vblackfox@mcselca.org or phone 773-248-0021, ext. 14, to let us know you've sent your application – just in case it gets lost in the mail.