



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



# The Fund for Mission Grant Application

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA, created a mission endowment fund in 1997 — the Fund for Mission (FFM) — to help congregations energize and extend the reach of their mission. The principal amount of the endowment remains intact in perpetuity. The investment earnings from the fund are distributed to congregations in response to mission grant applications from the congregations.

The primary purpose of these grants is to stimulate creative approaches to evangelical outreach, also referred to as invitational evangelism. After years of experience with this fund, the Fund Board has also learned that the most effective mission initiatives grow from an integrated mission plan with the fund granting to specific projects within that integrated plan.

In making awards, preference will be given to congregations that see this grant request as part of an integrated mission plan.

An integrated mission plan involves attention to three intersecting circles of mission endeavor:



**Proclamation:** Worship, faith sharing, invitation into Christian community

**Service:** Ministries of compassion and generosity toward those in need

**Justice:** Working toward social and economic structures that allow access and opportunity for all

Although individual grant applications may focus on only one or two of these mission circles, in making awards, preference will be given to congregations that see this grant request as part of an integrated mission plan.

It is also important to remember that these are **PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**. Grant applications must reflect a congregational financial commitment both to the project and to the mission of the whole Church.

Grant requests are evaluated by the Fund for Mission Board. This board consists of 8-12 members chosen from the congregations of the synod. The composition of the board reflects the representational principles that guide all structures of the ELCA. The Board meets twice annually to award grants with grant application deadlines falling on October 1 and April 1 and awards granted in November and May of each calendar year.

*(revised March 2018)*

Congregation:

# Benchmarks

A typical, but NOT comprehensive, schedule of grant amounts for specific types of projects

## Type of Project (Tell what category below fits your project most completely):

### Publicity Grants

- ◆ Mass mailings, brochures, event advertising
- ◆ Grants up to 5K if part of an integrated mission plan

### Music and the Arts

- ◆ Artist honoraria, rented tech support, publicity costs
- ◆ Grants up to 2K if part of an integrated mission plan

### Community Organizing

- ◆ Tuition subsidies for Community Organizing training, or Cultural Competency training
- ◆ Grants up to 5K for lay leadership training only

### Community Engagement

- ◆ Grants up to 10K for programs engaging the community as an integrated part of the ongoing ministry of the congregations
- ◆ Grants up to 5K for one-time events engaging the community

### Leadership Development

- ◆ Tuition subsidies for youth and young adult training, conflict management training, mission leadership training, etc
- ◆ Grants up to 5K if part of an integrated mission plan

### Coaching/Consulting

- ◆ Program, coaching, and consultation fees for professional consultants to develop an integrated mission plan
- ◆ Grants up to 10K with recognized service provider, if significantly matched by congregational giving

### Stewardship Development

- ◆ Comprehensive stewardship development consultations
- ◆ Grants up to 5K with commitment to increased proportion in regular mission support through the synod

### Community Redevelopment

- ◆ Integrated mission engagement in communities of concentrated poverty, health/nutrition deficits, crime, or violence
- ◆ Grants up to 20K in partnership with a recognized LSA Social Ministry Organization if part of an integrated mission plan

### Exclusions

- ◆ Grants will generally NOT be awarded to congregations that do not participate proportionately in mission support
- ◆ Grants will generally NOT be awarded to pay for staff salaries or benefits
- ◆ Grants will generally NOT be awarded for building improvements
- ◆ Grants will generally NOT be renewed more than once for a similar or identical project in the same congregation

# Partnerships

Seeing your mission in the larger context of the whole Church

Total income TO your congregation last year (all income sources):

Total amount given to regular Mission Support through the Metropolitan Chicago Synod:

Total amount given to other ELCA missions and ministries:

Total amount given to non-ELCA missions and ministries:

**All grant recipients are expected to fill out an annual congregational report to the ELCA and MUST include a copy of your most recent congregational report to the ELCA (Form A/parochial report) and the synod's Statement of Intent form**

**All grant recipients must complete a report at the end of one year sharing the results of your project.**

Congregation:

## Your Present Grant Application Proposal

Description of what you are hoping for through this FFM grant

**Date:**

**Congregation name:**

**Congregation mailing address:**

**Contact name:**

**Contact phone number:**

**Contact e-mail address:**

**Project name:**

**Amount requested:**

*Failure to provide the requested report describing the project's result prevents congregations from being considered for future Fund for Mission grants.*

**Brief description of the proposed project (200 words or fewer):**

**Anticipated budget for the proposed project** (please attach a complete income/expense budget; if using outside vendors, include quotes)

**What is your current average weekly worship attendance:**

**Number of people from your congregation who will participate in this new mission:**

**Volunteer Hours:**

**Financial Support from your congregation:**

**Congregation:**

## Your Integrated Mission Plan

If you currently have a comprehensive congregational mission plan, PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY WITH THIS APPLICATION.

**Choose only ONE category (Proclamation, Service, or Justice) and answer the questions about that one category as it relates to your grant request.**

**Proclamation**

The current grant application is designed to enhance the effectiveness of your mission to proclaim the faith and invite others into your faith community.

**Service**

The current grant application is designed to enhance the effectiveness of your mission to reach out to your community as an act of compassion and generosity.

**Justice**

The current grant application is designed to enhance the effectiveness of your mission to work for justice.

**Based on your choice above, describe three ways in which your congregation is currently involved in invitational evangelism to new people, or service to your community, or intentional effort to work for a more just society or community.**

**Briefly describe three desired measurable outcomes from this project:**

### **Generosity**

To implement your mission plan, what growth will you need to achieve in congregational financial support? \_\_\_\_\_%

Approximately how many individuals participated in the development of this mission plan? \_\_\_\_\_

# Checklist

Make Sure Your Application Is Complete



For your application to be complete and to be considered by the Fund for Mission Board, these four items must be included:

- The PDF application completely filled out
- The project budget
- The current year Form A from your congregational/parochial report
- Your current Congregation Statement of Intent (Mission Support for Synod and ELCA Churchwide Ministries)

Applications received without all required paperwork will not be considered.