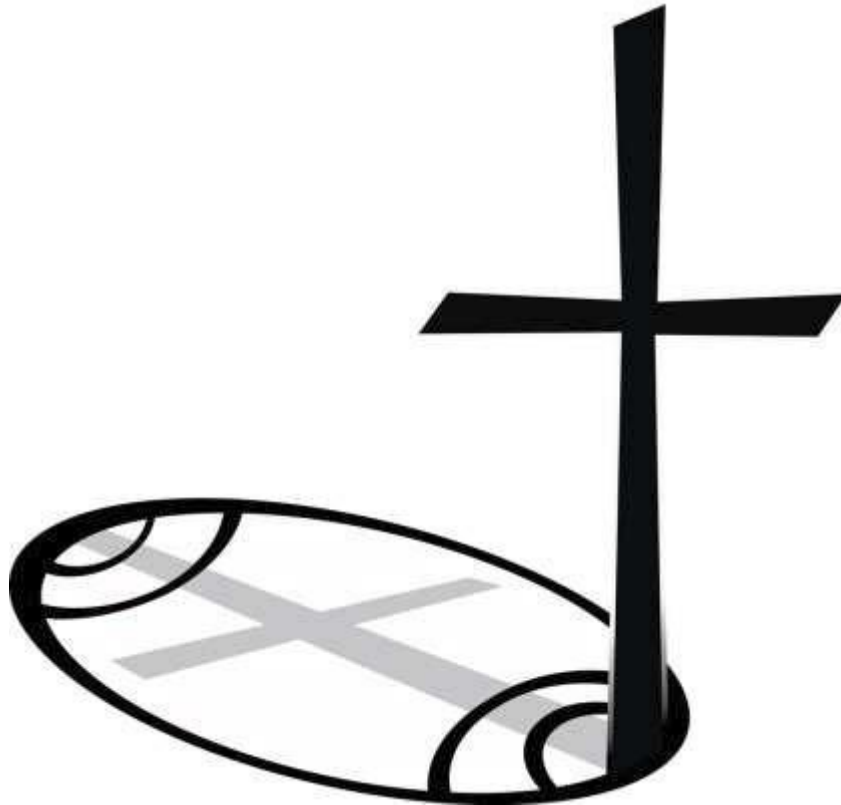


Akron Area Association of American Baptist Churches

CHURCH MINISTRY GRANT PROGRAM



3/8/2021

ABC/OHIO AKRON AREA ASSOCIATION CHURCH MINISTRY GRANT

PURPOSE:

The intention of this grant program is to offer some assistance and encouragement for implementing ministries which will serve unchurched people and meet human needs in the name of Christ; bring many to faith in Him; and encourage, strengthen, unite and spark renewal in our churches.

SPECIFICS:

1. First and foremost, we rely on God to direct our steps and opportunities. His ways are higher than ours and His plans are greater than we could think our imagine.
2. Understanding that we are just a steward of the finances given by God for use on His behalf, maximizing our resources and targeting our efforts on key initiatives are top priorities.
3. The amount of funding for grants will be set, in conjunction with the ABC/Ohio Akron Area Association Scholarship Program, through the annual budgeting process of the Akron Area Association, subject to approval by a vote of the ABC/Ohio Akron Area Association Trustees.
4. Each grant is supported by the ABC/Ohio Akron Area Association investments portfolio. In any year when budgeted funds are not fully disbursed, the funds will remain in the investment portfolio of the Akron Area Association.
5. In order to assist as many churches as possible, grants are not renewable.
6. When a proposal is received, it will be scheduled for the next available Review Committee, which meets approximately quarterly. It is this Committee, comprised of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of the ABC/Ohio Akron Area Association, which will determine if the proposal will be reviewed by our full Board of Trustees for possible funding. This process may take up to approximately 180 days.
7. There may also be an interview process in order to gather additional information.
8. Grants are awarded at the sole discretion of the ABC/Ohio Akron Area Association Board of Trustees. There is no guarantee that a grant applied for will be awarded.
9. Many projects and programs are worthy of funding; however, our funding is limited. Applicants should understand that rejection of a proposal in no way indicates a rejection of the worthiness of the proposal or the rejection of the proposer.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The applying church shall be a recognized member of ABC/Ohio Akron Area Association.
2. The applying church must be current with Akron Area Association dues.
3. Grants will not be made to individuals.

GUIDELINES:

1. The Grant Fund will be used for new programs and projects which further the Gospel of Jesus Christ by focusing on outreach and evangelism ministries, holistic and community service ministries (serving “the least of these” – assisting the poor, marginalized and oppressed by serving their physical and/or spiritual needs), children and youth ministries,

media and technology (engaging culture for evangelism or spiritual formation through forms of traditional and emerging media), spiritual development and discipleship, church renewal and revitalization, and strengthening the Association's educational or spiritual base.

2. Grant applications will be accepted for ministries that are no more than two (2) years old on the date of application (e.g., for "scaling up" a successfully tested initiative), or new projects not beyond six (6) months from inception on the date of application.
3. Grant money cannot be applied toward capital fund building campaigns.
4. Grants shall not exceed fifty (50) percent of project costs.

GRANT REQUEST PROCEDURE:

1. Grant applications can be submitted at any time during the year. The Review Committee considers grant requests at its meetings in March, June, August and November. Grant requests must be received by the first business day of those months to be considered at the corresponding Committee meeting.
2. Grantee churches may receive only one grant per twelve (12) month period, and may only receive a total of three (3) grants in a five (5) year period.
3. If a grant is denied, the applying church will receive a letter informing them that the request has been denied.
4. If a grant is denied at a meeting of the Board of Trustees (for any reason), the grant application may be resubmitted six (6) months after the denial.
5. Grant applications may be withdrawn at any time prior to the Review Committee meeting in which the application is scheduled to be considered. If withdrawn, the applicant may re-apply at any time.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Completion and submission of the ABC/Ohio Akron Area Association Grant Application, including signatures requested.
2. All churches and church organizations which receive funding will furnish the Executive Leadership Team with reports and updates on the outcome and success or failure of the project.
 - a. Interim report will be required six (6) months from the date the grant was awarded.
 - b. Final written report and evaluation of the project may be submitted at any time but are otherwise due one (1) year from the award date, unless an extension is requested and granted.
3. Funded churches agree to share the results of their project with other ABC/Ohio churches (e.g., display at convention, association rallies, workshops, etc.) if requested.
4. If the project/program/ministry fails to materialize, full reimbursement of grant money is expected.

Any questions regarding a grant application should be directed to the ABC/Ohio Akron Area Association Clerk at (330) 607-0226 or e-mail: emjarvis37@gmail.com. All documents shall be mailed to: Akron Area Association Church Ministry Grant Review Committee, c/o First Baptist Church of Canton, 4110 - 38th St NW, Canton, OH 44718.