

American Baptist Churches of IN & KY

TOGETHER
on God's Abundant
Journey

equipping leaders
empowering churches
expanding mission

**Expanding
Mission
Church Grant**

**A ministry of the
American Baptist Churches
of Indiana and Kentucky**

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Explanation

The Expanding Mission Church Grant was established by the ABC of Indiana/Kentucky Board in 2014 to provide additional funds for your church to expand mission and service in your community. Would “seed money” help you enhance a ministry with children of incarcerated parents, or get started with a community garden, or provide back-to-school haircuts, or prepare weekend food packs for school children, or arrange a neighborhood block party? Or, do you have other ideas, uniquely suited to your community setting, to expand the mission where God has placed you?

The Expanding Mission Church Grant is available to all eligible churches within the ABC-IN/KY. For the purposes of this grant, an eligible church is identified as having contributed in the prior year to the mission and ministry of ABC-IN/KY through United Mission, the America for Christ Offering, the Region Offering, or State Work. (Questions about church contribution may be directed to sooziford@abc-indiana.org).

The Expanding Mission Church Grant must be used to serve the community and cannot be used for salary or benefits. The grant cannot be used to support a church program primarily intended for members, nor can it be applied towards the building or remodeling of physical structures. Recipients of the Expanding Mission Church Grants are expected to provide two, one-page written descriptions, with pictures/video, of how the grant was used so that the story may be shared with others. These descriptions are due, respectively, on August 15 and December 31 of the year the grant was received.

Eligible churches are encouraged to apply for a grant by completing the simple application form, preferably electronically and using additional space as necessary to allow for sufficient response to the questions. Return the completed form to the attention of Becky Septoski at beckyseptoski@abc-indiana.org. Details as to when the application is due can be found on the application form.

The Expanding Mission Church Grant Team will review all applications and handle all follow-up with award recipients. The decisions of this appointed team will be final, and the grant money will be distributed no later than January 31 of the year for which the grant was applied.

Examples

Below are a few examples of the various ways churches have used the grant money they received.

Calvary Baptist Church in Kokomo grows a vegetable garden that helps feed the community. They have many volunteers from the congregation who participate in making this yearly project a viable ministry to the community and surrounding area. It was estimated that the church distributed approximately 1000 pounds of produce in 2015.

Greencastle First Baptist Church will be preparing a Thanksgiving Day meal for those who serve as first responders in their community. Those who serve as first responders will be working on Thanksgiving Day and will be away from their families. Greencastle FBC anticipates serving approximately 24 first responders. They will also reach out to those in need at the community homeless shelter by including them in their Thanksgiving meal delivery.

The First Baptist Church of Dillsboro purchased 78 backpacks used to distribute school supplies to children ages Kindergarten through grade twelve. They hold a “Back-to-School Bash” event for the children in their community. Food, fun, a bounce house, games and school supplies are provided to children along with Christian love and interaction with the families that attend the event.

Westport Baptist Church has made an impact on their community by providing free meals. They were able to focus a portion of their efforts on the elderly population. Those elderly who participated in the meal enjoyed having someone to share a meal with and have someone show them kindness and love. The church was also able to host a “Breakfast with Santa” event that was the highlight of the year’s events for the congregation! The event provided the church the opportunity to distribute information about upcoming events for the Christmas season.