

Emerging Communities of Faith Grant Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Central District Conference and Mennonite Church USA, *Vision: Healing and Hope*

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Central District Conference Mission Statement

The mission of Central District Conference is to know Christ's abundant love in who we are and how we live, and to answer God's persistent call to share that love with one another and the world by:

- *Promoting a Christ-like community of hospitality where all are welcome and where grace-filled relationship flourish, and patience and generosity are practiced,*
- *Calling and nurturing wise, dynamic and compassionate Anabaptist leadership,*
- *Supporting missional partnerships that make God's reign visible and fostering ministries of evangelism, peace, healing and hope.*

Central District Conference is excited to see how the Spirit is moving across our conference as we work at carrying out our mission. We are offering Emerging Communities of Faith grants designed to encourage the growth of emerging communities of faith in our conference. This grant will match (see details below) money raised at the grassroots level (from the local community) to give the extra financial boost necessary for an emerging community of faith. An emerging community of faith may be any group that sees itself as growing into relationship with Central District Conference.

There are up to \$8,000 grant dollars available to emerging communities of faith, per year up to three years.

- *First Year:* There is up to \$8,000 grant dollars available for those who submit a grant request and are approved.
- *Second Year:* There is a 2:1 matching grant available, up to \$8,000 grant dollars, contingent on the emerging community of faith providing up to \$4,000 dollars (pledges or in hand).
- *Third Year:* There is a 1:1 matching grant available, up to \$8,000 grant dollars, contingent on the emerging community of faith providing up to \$8,000 dollars (pledges or in hand).

Grant proposals may be submitted at any time. An emerging community of faith may apply for this grant once/year up to three years.

Grants must be used for emerging communities of faith. Please contact the conference office for guidance by email at office@mcusacdc.org or call 800.662.2264.

Application form follows. Decisions for funding will be made by the Missional Church Committee at a regularly scheduled committee meeting. In the case of matching grants, funds will be distributed after receiving information that the matching funds and/or pledges have been raised. The amount of funds disbursed will depend on the available funds.

Applications can be:

*Filled out online at www.mcusacdc.org click Resources, click Missional, click Emerging Communities of Faith Grant

*Emailed to: office@mcusacdc.org

*Mailed to: Central District Conference, 1015 Division St, Goshen, IN 46528

Central District Conference
Emerging Communities of Faith Grant
Application

Electronic submittal preferred: www.mcusacdc.org click Resources, click Missional, click Emerging Communities of Faith Grant. If submitting via postal mail, please use black ink.

Date:

Name:

Address:

Phone/Email:

Emerging Community of Faith name (if applicable)

Emerging Community of Faith website (if applicable)

We are really excited to get to know and learn about your emerging community of faith. Your answers don't need to be long and we're not looking for specific formal answers or policies, but we do want to know what you're thinking about and doing. We also know that emerging communities of faith are dynamic and changing, so we expect that your answers might be different a year from now (and probably even a month from now). We are so excited to gain an understanding of what God is doing through and in your emerging community of faith!

Please answer the questions below:

Share core highlights from the story (with rough dates) of how your community of faith has emerged.

What are the practices of your emerging community of faith? For example: gathering for bible study or worship every two weeks, sharing meals once a month, gathering for prayer weekday mornings, meeting once a month to plan and vision, distributing food to our neighbors every week, organizing a local protest each week.

What are the commitments to peacemaking/justice/mission for your emerging community of faith and how are you living those out?

Tell us about the people who are part of your emerging community of faith. Who are the leaders/core people and what are their roles? How are decisions made within your emerging community of faith? For example: consensus or voting of all, leadership team consensus or voting, planter making most, leaders make decisions within their focus areas.

Who are your emerging community of faith's core partners (organizational and individual) and in what ways are they resourcing/supporting your community (for example: coaching, financial support, accounting/fiduciary)?

Describe the resources people from your emerging community of faith are contributing to the endeavor (for example: financial contributions, in-kind donations, time, gathering space)?

Who is your emerging community of faith for? How are you listening to and engaging with the people your community serves? How are you finding and inviting new people to belong?

What have you been hearing from God recently concerning your emerging community of faith?

What are two or three key things you have learned along the way as a community of faith?

Are there any Scriptures that are of particular importance/guidance to your emerging community of faith?

If your hopes for this emerging community of faith come to fruition, describe what it will look like in five years.

How do you handle finances now? For example: we just Venmo money around as needs arise, we have an official bank account, or our sponsoring church handles this for us.

If you were to receive this grant, how would you access it? Some options are: send us a check (we have or will form a legal entity and open a bank account), or send it to our sponsoring church and we'll access it through them.

What will this grant allow you to do that you cannot do currently?