

Missional Church Committee



Members: *Alaina Dobkowski (Grand Rapids), Julia Gingrich (Eighth Street), Elizabeth Kelly (First Mennonite Bluffton), Josh Richardson (St Louis), César Moya (Emmanuel), Brian Sauder (First Mennonite Urbana), Krista Showalter (Shalom Mennonite Congregation), Matt Pritchard (The Intention Church) ex-officio*

Rise Up, Take Courage Mutual Aid Fund As our neighbors faced widening economic inequity and intensified immigration enforcement, the CDC Missional Church Committee launched the Rise Up, Take Courage Mutual Aid Fund—in just 24 hours.

We seeded this fund using our existing committee activities and grant budgets, promising to back up your courage with immediate, tangible resources. By processing emergency grants in less than a week, we have been able to respond at the speed of the need. The response has been incredible: in just four months, we distributed over \$20,000 to more than a dozen CDC congregations and assisted one congregation in leveraging other Mennonite resources to stretch their funds.

Across our conference, your generosity is doing so much more. We are:

- Keeping the lights and heat on at a new emergency winter homeless shelter, supported by a \$1,000 grant.
- Supplying groceries for community meals in a neighborhood recovering from the trauma of federal ICE raids.
- Providing snacks for youth after-school programs, canned goods for local food banks, and toiletries for our unhoused neighbors.
- Assisting with a \$1,050 grant for the Sola Gratia Farm Farmer's Market Initiative.

As faithful leaders, you are showing up for your vulnerable neighbors. But the requests for help haven't stopped. We urgently need your support to replenish the Rise Up, Take Courage Mutual Aid Fund so we can keep acting quickly. Please, help us embody God's justice and love. Send your donation to CDC today, marked "Rise Up, Take Courage."

Supporting Emerging Communities & Grant Updates Our work entails imagining the emerging future church. It can be messy and ambiguous, experimenting with new models of being a Peace Church.

This year, we actively supported these new models by renewing Emerging Communities Grants for The Intention Church, Moveable Feast, and Imagine Cincinnati. We also approved an \$8,000 grant for Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship's third year in the program as they take solid steps toward sustainability.

Beyond our emerging communities, we approved a \$2,500 Reign of God Grant to support a Reparations Summit hosted collaboratively by Assembly Mennonite Church, Eighth Street Mennonite Church, and Hively Avenue Mennonite Church.

Reflections We witnessed congregations stepping up in incredible ways and we clearly see God moving through themes of justice and reparations, activism and political formation, and a deepening connection to our natural environment.

Submitted by Elizabeth Kelly, Chair