

Mission Funding to Missional Communities 2017

Overview: Grace Gathering operates not just through Sunday gatherings but also through missional communities (MCs) and other groups led by everyday members of the church who partner together under one umbrella to impact the world for the kingdom of God. Grace desires to equip, empower, and release these communities to impact the Greater Fort Wayne community and the world at large. The Elders at Grace believe that a portion of the finances the congregation gives to the church should be directed back into the missional communities specifically for missions.

Criteria: Funding for mission is available for MCs who meet the following criteria:

1. The MC has a name
2. The MC has identifiable leaders seeking to live a 'Family On Mission' lifestyle
3. The MC has a predictable pattern of meeting
4. The MC has a clear missional focus (a specific neighborhood or network of people who don't yet know Jesus)
5. The MC leaders are in an accountable relationship with the MC Director

Amount:

\$800 for Local Mission (see below for a description)

\$1076 for International Mission (see below for a description)

Purpose of the Money: Regarding the UP, IN, and OUT focus of each missional community these funds are intended to be used for the OUT (to serve and reach those outside the body of Christ). The goal is that the funds will be used both for a local and international focus.

The Distinction between "Charity" and "Mission: There are many people with genuine needs within our community that we can help, but there are **some important evaluations** to help us as we decide where we want to invest. One evaluation would be "Does our community have a relationship with the person that we are helping?" A second evaluation would be "Is this individual or family a Person of Peace?" Thirdly, "Is this individual or family unbelievers?" If they are already believers, then this would be considered more of a benevolence request and the mission funds should not be used.

The mission funds are to be used as a tool to reach unbelievers for Christ.

Local Mission: These funds are available to help with missional focus events or other local outreach events. Maybe a MC will want to host a party, or other events such as a Thanksgiving

meal, Christmas party or sports tournament to invite neighbors, or the specific network of people your community are reaching out to who don't yet know Jesus. Local mission funds could also be used for resources you need in order to facilitate gathering together, for example purchasing folding chairs, a beverage dispenser, Bibles or invitations. Funds could also be used to purchase small gifts and offer support to not-yet believers. This could take the form of providing school supplies for Refugee families, assisting with house repairs or engaging in other acts of service to the community. Serving unbelievers by meeting their needs as well as reaching unbelievers with the gospel within the Greater Fort Wayne area are how these local funds are to be used.

International Mission: The goal is that missional communities will have an international focus where some of these funds can be directed. For example a MC may want to take members of the community, including their People of Peace, on a short term missions trip abroad. In this case, part of the cost of this trip could be subsidized by this fund. Alternatively, these funds could be used to support an overseas missionary, a missions organization, Bibles in China, orphans in Africa, a church plant in South America, or children from Compassion International.

Accessing the Funds: All transactions must be pre-approved by the MC Director and will be contingent on available funds at the time. Due to the potential number of transactions, each MC should try to limit their request to no more than four requests per year. An electronic request form is available online at: <http://www.gracegathering.com/mission-funds-request>. We strongly encourage missional communities to utilize these funds.

Other Guidelines:

- **All reimbursements require a receipt before a check will be given.** Although this is the case, **please be sure to fill out a mission request form before the purchase is made.**
- Money will be given as cashflow permits and will be given on a first come, first serve basis
- Checks will be written within two weeks
- All requests and approvals must come through the MC Director