



Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

MISSION GRANT POLICY

VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA
P.O. Box 70, Salem, VA 24153

Mission Grant Policy

Wanting to generate and encourage a synod of missional activity, the Synod Council has set aside the funds from the sale of former church property in Virginia Beach and the funds from the sale of property in Chesterfield to be used to create an ongoing source of grants from the interest generated by their principal. This could potentially at 4% allow \$30,000 a year for making grants to congregations in the area of mission that the synod council is hoping to influence incentives for new communities of worship. Each January the Synod Council will determine the amount of funds available based upon interest generated in the previous year. Consistent with our hope at the time of the sales of the above properties, the Synod Council remains ready to use the principal of the fund if a new start, new development is begun for the purchase of land or the beginning of a mission developer in a new area or context.

This missional fund will also be available for individuals, congregations, and institutions to make gifts to its principal.

It is critical to identify specific criteria upon which to evaluate grant proposals. As such, a working definition of “mission” is important. By “mission,” the Synod Council means “new fresh water” coming into the life of the synod. In other words, new ministry. This could mean a new congregation, worship location, or worship style. It means the church sharing the gospel outside the walls and boundaries of existing congregations. It excludes ministries which are intended to or would in effect reach only current members of our congregations. The intent is for new neighborhoods, new communities, and new people to have access to the gospel.

In our effort to have this new granting program reflect the hopes of the synod council, we will be encouraging congregations to invite the DEM and synod staff to be a part of their congregational planning process so that the DEM and synod staff might be able to speak with enthusiasm about the grant requests coming forward.

"All of the deadlines and activities to develop a grant proposal during 2018 would be for 2019 grants, which would be the first grants to be awarded under the new policy. Those grants would be paid out to the selected grantees in January 2019. Then, in 2019, we would be working toward 2020 grants, and so on."

Mission Grant Policy Timeline

The Synod Council will offer this yearly schedule:

February 1-15	Congregations make first contact with synod staff about possible idea
February 15-31	Second contact with synod staff to write/formalize ministry idea
March 15	Deadline for submitting to the Mission Strategy Team
March 15-30	Synod Council receives written proposals from the Mission Strategy Team
April-July	Further develop ideas by congregation working with DEM/synod staff
August 1	Proposals submitted to the Mission Strategy Team
September 15-30	Synod Council receives and selects proposals for grants
December 1-15	Grants are awarded with presentations to be made at the coming assembly in June