

Encouragement for District Partnership

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 14:40 that “all things should be done decently and in order.” That is a different verse to be using on a letter discussing a mission grant application, especially when St. Paul is using it in the context of worship. Whether it be worship, proclaiming the Gospel, or living a Christian life, don’t we try to do everything decently and in order to the glory of God?

You are preparing to fill out a grant application in the hope that you will receive monetary assistance to help proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. That is awesome! As you start filling out the application, grueling as it may be, may it be done decently and in order, again to the glory of God. However, for this letter, let’s think about how this will affect your congregation’s relationship with your district.

Is your congregation one that feels disconnected with Iowa District West? Have you had a district representative come and speak to your congregation? If not, you should. They want to be there, and they do a good job. Does conversation about your district even come up? If not...why not? These are good questions to ponder.

Can filling out this application and receiving funds help you proclaim the Gospel? I hope you say “yes.” Have you ever thought that this application could be the beginning steps of improving or even starting a relationship between your congregation and Iowa District West? We hope and pray it is. We are all connected through the one body of Jesus Christ, we are all brothers and sisters, and we are all on the front line of this war in proclaiming the truth of God’s Word. Therefore, to proclaim God’s Word decently and in order is to do it together, not separately.

Remember, this is a relationship, a two way street. I want you to think about your part in this relationship. Are you going to look at this grant as a reason to hold back your contributions to district thinking “If they have all this money to hand out, why should our congregation give?” Or, can we see this as an opportunity to reach even more people with the Gospel, being grateful to the district and giving thanks to God for such an opportunity, by continuing our support of district and the Synod as a whole?

We are in this together. Whether you have had good experiences, bad, or no experiences with your district; it does not change the fact that your district wants to have a relationship with you. As their mission statement says, “Iowa District West is on a mission to support Christ’s mission” carried out by you. Continue on, fill out the application, contact the District office, and let’s build a relationship that is grounded in the Word of God. Let us work together to save souls by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Nicholas Thackery
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge



Outreach Ministry Grant Application Cover Sheet Iowa District West LCMS



Applicant Information:

Name of congregation requesting grant:

Mailing address:

City, State, Zip:

Church office phone:

Project title:

(Who you are and what your outreach opportunity is)

Project cost: \$

Amount requesting: \$

Contact Person/Project Chairman:

Ministry Position:

Email Address:

Contact Phone Number(s):

Send Completed Applications To:

Email to:

mark@iowadistrictwest.org

OR

Iowa District West Mission Grants

Attn: Pastor Mark Gerken

409 Kenyon Rd, Suite B

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Completed applications check list:

- Completed Application Cover Sheet
- Provide a typed document outlining the ministry plan
(See Ministry Plan Guidelines & Criteria)
- Plan for financial budget and sustainability

Application due October 15

***Your current annual congregational mission pledge to District \$

Evaluation Report Form must be completed before final mission grant distribution.

Total Project Budget

[illegible][illegible]

\$

\$
\$
\$
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\$

\$

\$



Iowa District West LCMS Congregational Ministry Plan Guidelines and Criteria:

The Mission of Iowa District West: On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission.

Timetable: Applications are to be received by October 15 (funds will be distributed the following year). The Missions Committee of Iowa District West will review all applications and award grants. Remaining funds, if available, may be dispersed later in the year by action of the Missions Committee.

Guidelines: *Grant applications must address the following points:*

- **Goal-** what you are wanting to accomplish that will result in more people hearing the Gospel message.
- **Mission Target Group-** description of the specific people in your mission field to whom you will be intentional in ministering.
- **Strategy-** outline the ways your ministry will connect with the target group.
- **Plans-** describe the ministry steps you plan to take, detailing preparation and who all will be involved in the effort, along with their duties.
- **Outcomes-** list specific and measurable results you hope to obtain that will show how your ministry is planting the seeds of the Gospel.
- **Budget-** a complete plan for financial sustainability.

Criteria: *applications will be reviewed according to the following:*

- An intentional focus on reaching pre-Christians and disconnected people within Iowa District West.
- An emphasis on building and strengthening relationships both in the congregation and with pre-Christians and disconnected people.
- A clear, realistic, and specific ministry plan as outlined in the guidelines.
- A fiscal plan that indicates sources of funding, budget details, and a timeline for becoming financially independent (if applicable).
- Priority will be given to sustainable ministries as opposed to one-time events.

By submitting this application, it is understood that an evaluation report (downloadable at www.iowamissions.org) of the effort, including lessons learned, will be submitted.