

**TOM STOLLE**

Chief Financial Officer

tstolle@bcmd.org
Ext. 207

November, 2011

Dear Church Leader:

Once again, the General Mission Board is making funds available via grants to our churches for Strengthening Churches Projects. Reports from projects undertaken in previous years have been very encouraging. God is blessing the use of these resources.

We are making plans for granting **2012 Strengthening Churches Funds**. Enclosed you will find the information you need to submit proposals. **Read the information in the booklet carefully.** If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us. You should start with Gail Noda, who can be reached at 800.466.5290, extension 218, or gnoda@bcmd.org.

We typically receive more requests than we have funds to grant. We encourage you to submit your proposals prior to the **February 13, 2012, deadline**. We also urge you to include all requested materials. **Our granting committee will not consider a proposal until all materials have been received.** Please also note that the **maximum grant amount** for any project in 2012 is **\$4000**.

The Grants Application can be downloaded from the BCM/D website here: www.bcmd.org/financial and click on 2012 Strengthening Churches Grant under the Ministry Resources tab. We are committed to partnering with you in accomplishing the Great Commission. We look forward to serving you.

Yours in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas E. Stolle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Tom Stolle
Strengthening Churches Committee Staff Liaison

gn
Enclosure

**Application
Process for**

2012

Strengthening

Churches Grants

Funds

Strengthening Churches Grants Funds are monies earned from the “Advancing Christ’s Kingdom”

Fund. These monies are made available to assist in projects designed to expand the outreach and ministry of churches in existence three years or more.

Project proposals/requests can be submitted by local BCM/D churches/missions, associations, BCM/D strategy teams, and/or Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware staff. Such projects will be funded based on predetermined criteria.

Information Important to You

The Strengthening Churches Grant Committee of the General Mission Board is now receiving project proposals/requests for 2012.

February 13, 2012, is the deadline for receiving project proposals.

The **maximum** grant per project will not exceed **\$4000**.

Only one project request will be considered from any church or association. If a church has received a grant in a previous year for a project, additional applications for a grant must be for a different project.

Due to limited resources, **requests for projects related to construction or transportation** will not be considered. **First time requests** will be given priority.

Applications must be presented to the Grants Committee on the form provided or retyped with the same wording and format.

Criteria for Granting Strengthening Churches Funds

1. Potential for reaching and discipling unchurched people

Priority will be given to those proposals that represent the greatest potential for reaching the unchurched and developing them into disciples of Jesus Christ.

Example: A church's proposal to establish an after-school ministry with unchurched teenagers may be given priority over a request to help purchase new choir robes.

2. Potential for continued influence in the church's or association's ministry

Priority will be given to proposals that show potential for continued influence in contrast to those projects whose potential influence is limited by time and degree of impact.

Example: An association's request for establishing a ministry for teaching English as a second language in their area may be given priority over the funding of an associational youth rally.

3. Innovation

We need to continually search for new and more effective methods of achieving the Great Commission. Therefore, priority attention will be given to those proposals that represent innovation in ministry and outreach.

Example: A new approach for penetrating a multi-family housing complex with the gospel may be given priority over the funding of a local church's Lay Evangelism School.

4. Availability of other resources for funding the project

It may be possible to secure other sources for financing proposals. The committee will examine the church's or association's ability to fund the proposal. Strengthening Churches funds will be allocated only when other resources are not readily available or in cases where the proposal could not be implemented without this funding.

Example: A church with limited financial resources requesting assistance in providing a part-time music leader may be given priority over a congregation where resources could be secured by shifting priorities, challenging the congregation, and so on.

5. Project fits into a comprehensive vision/strategy that would conserve/magnify results

Priority will be given to projects that fit into a more comprehensive vision/strategy. Those applying for funding must submit a master plan for the ministry involved and explain how the proposed effort fits into that plan.

Example: A proposal from a church with a detailed strategy for implementation and follow-up in an effort to reach inner-city youth may be given priority over a proposal from a church that has done no research and has no plans for follow-up, and so on.

6. Church or Association has demonstrated its support of the Cooperative Program and/or the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware mission causes

Grant applications by churches and associations who have not demonstrated their support of the Cooperative Program and/or the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware mission causes through financial support, participation, and partnership will not be considered.

Example: Two churches request funding to expand their ministries to single parents in their respective communities. Church A has been a faithful Cooperative Program/BCMD supporter with a significant percentage of its budget given each year to advance missions causes, while Church B has made no contribution. Only Church A will be considered for a grant request.

7. Those receiving Strengthening Churches Funds must agree to submit a final evaluation of the project within thirty days after the completion of the project. Failure to submit a written evaluation may jeopardize consideration of any future grant proposals.

Example: Church A has been granted \$2000 to underwrite its summer project designed to reach inner-city youth. As arranged with the committee, Church A presents a final report as a part of the evaluation of the project in September.

8. Priority will be given to churches and associations who are submitting first time requests.

Example: Church A is submitting a first-time request for a grant to Underwrite a youth outreach ministry. Church B is Submitting a similar request. Church B is a recipient of previous Strengthening Churches Funds. All other factors being equal, priority will be given to Church A.

9. Church plants in existence three years or less are not eligible for a Strengthening Churches grant.

**Contract for Use of Baptist Convention of
Maryland/Delaware
“Strengthening Churches Funds”**

The General Mission Board
of the Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware agrees to allocate a total of

\$2000

to assist in underwriting

A Summer Evangelism Project to Reach Inner-City Youth

sponsored by

Ridgely Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Ridgely Baptist Church agrees:

- ❶ To expend allocated funds solely in connection with implementing the above approved project.
- ❷ To provide a written evaluation of the project within 30 days of completion of the project. Not providing a written report will affect consideration of future requests.
- ❸ To refund any unused portion of the Strengthening Churches Funds with the final evaluation or December 31, 2012, whichever comes first so that the resources may be reallocated to other worthy projects.

Signed _____ **GMB Committee Chairperson**

Signed _____ **Church Official**

Date _____

Project Proposal Strengthening Churches Funds Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware

Deadline February 13, 2012

Name of Church, Association, or BCM/D entity _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____ Telephone () _____ Fax () _____

Primary Contact _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____ Telephone () _____ Fax () _____

✓ **Please complete each section of this form, and send the requested documents. Incomplete applications may cause your request not to be considered.**

✓ **Send Project Proposal to Gail Noda, Committee Ministry Assistant, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, 10255 Old Columbia Road, Columbia, MD 21046-1716.**

✓ **The Committee Staff Liaison Tom Stolle, Committee Ministry Assistant Gail Noda, as well as any member of the Strengthening Churches Grants Committee, is available to assist in answering questions and/or helping to construct the project proposal. Call 800.466.5290, extension 218; fax 410.290.7040; or e-mail gnodea@bcmd.org.**

✓ **You must include:**

- **A copy of your present budget and your most recent monthly or quarterly financial statement.**
- **A detailed explanation and cost projection for the proposed project.**

1. Have you received Strengthening Churches Grant funds? _____ When? _____ How much? _____

2. Amount given in the previous year to the Cooperative Program/BCM/D. _____

Any church that has not contributed to the BCMD within the last year will not be eligible for a grant.

3. Please give a brief synopsis of proposal (e.g. Youth Witnessing Program, Literacy Training, etc.) Please attach a detailed proposal.

4. Estimated start date _____ and completion date _____.

5. Amount requested from Strengthening Churches Funds: \$ _____

Total expenditure for program or activity: \$ _____
(Please attach a proposed budget as to how the funds would be spent.)

6. Summarize how your proposal will reach and disciple un-reached people.
(You may attach a more detailed explanation.)

7. Summarize how your proposal fits into the overall vision for your church or association.
(You may attach a more detailed explanation.)

8. Summarize how you intend to measure the accomplishment of items 5 and 6 above.
(You may attach a more detailed explanation.)

9. You may attach any other information you deem important for the Strengthening Churches committee to know.

Please Note

You will be required to submit a written evaluation of the project within 30 days of completion of the project to the Strengthening Churches Grants Committee of the General Mission Board. Failure to submit a written evaluation may jeopardize consideration of any future grant proposals.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

Senior Pastor: _____ Date: _____