



BAPTIST CONVENTION OF MARYLAND/DELAWARE

**Application Process
for
2020 Strengthening
Churches Grants Funds**

What are Strengthening Churches Grants?

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

Who can apply for Strengthening Churches Grants?

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.

Important Information

The Strengthening Churches Grants Committee of the General Mission Board is now receiving project proposals/requests for 2020.

February 15, 2020, is the deadline for receiving project proposals.

The **maximum** grant per project will not exceed **\$4,000**.

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 equipment.

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 areas affected by poverty 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 an outreach event 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/BCM/D 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 \$2,000 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

\$2,000

to assist in underwriting

A Summer Evangelism Project to Reach Inner-City Youth

sponsored by

Ridgely Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Ridgely Baptist Church agrees:

- 1 To expend allocated funds solely in connection with implementing the above approved project.
- 2 To provide a written evaluation of the project within 30 days of completion of the project. Not providing a written report will preclude consideration of future requests.
- 3 To refund any unused portion of the Strengthening Churches Funds with the final evaluation or by December 31, 2020, 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 15, 2020

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:
Iris White
Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware
10255 Old Columbia Road
Columbia, MD 21046-1716
- ✓ The Committee Staff Liaison Tom Stolle, Committee Assistant Iris White, as well as any member of the Strengthening Churches Grants Committee are available to assist in answering questions and/or help to construct the project proposal. Call 800-466-5290, extension 202; or send an e-mail to: iwhite@bcmd.org.
- ✓ **You MUST include:**
 - 1. A copy of your present budget**
 - 2. Your most recent monthly or quarterly financial statement**
 - 3. 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 BCM/D 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 6 and 7 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: _____