

VIRLINA DISTRICT ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR SMALLER MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATIONS SMCC GUIDELINES

DEFINITION OF SMALLER MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATION: A congregation of less than 50 members and less than \$30,000 yearly giving.

PURPOSE OF ASSISTANCE GRANT: The Assistance Grant is for the purpose of assisting smaller membership congregations to provide opportunities for expanded ministry, to provide outreach to new persons, and to provide needed ministries in the community, district, and denomination. This grant is to support both ministry and service programs. It may be used for building projects, if these are designed to enhance the ministry and outreach of the congregation. Congregations of the Virlina District are encouraged to contribute to this fund for its continued usefulness.

POTENTIAL USES OF FUNDS FROM THE ASSISTANCE GRANT:

- Training and involvement of the congregation in evangelism and sharing of the Christian faith.
- Technology for use in worship and Christian Education such as projectors, internet, cell phone services, large screen televisions, etc.
- Training and developing church leadership including preparation for ministry.
- The purchase of Sunday School curriculum, arts and crafts, and fellowship supplies.
- Programs of ministry and service which reach into the community, food sharing for local neighborhoods and schools, etc.
- Sending subsidy funds or support for Brethren Volunteer Service participants who are members of Smaller Membership Congregations
- Pastoral program support to enable a stronger ministry of the church.
- Choir music or music ministry for worship and/or seasonal programs
- Assistance in summer pastoral programs involving Bethany Theological Seminary or Brethren college students.
- Making the church building safer and more accessible to all, through the installation of ramps, railings, plumbing, emergency compliancy, and security fencing or locks.
- Maintenance on church owned vehicles, lawn equipment, etc.
- Other needs that are subject to approval by the Commission on Witness' Smaller Membership Congregational Committee (SMCC)

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR ASSISTANCE GRANT: Requests should have the approval of the congregation. Applications will be made in writing, using the Assistance Grant application form with explanations, needs, and priorities stated as clearly as possible. A description of how the people of the congregation would share in the proposed ministry is required on the form. A representative of the Smaller Membership Congregational Committee (SMCC) will make arrangements to visit each congregation that is requesting assistance in an effort to become more fully aware of the needs and opportunities afforded by this grant.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM FOR ASSISTANCE GRANT TO:

Virlina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, Virginia 24012.

Edited 7/29/2021