



Mobilizing for Mission Grants Through the Regional Synod of Canada, Inc.

PLEASE FILL OUT SECTIONS A, B, C AND D BELOW.

VISION

Mobilizing for Mission (MfM) Grants are intended for the flourishing of the local RCA church in Canada.

Our method is to “**equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the full stature of Christ.” (Eph 4:12,13)

Our goal is the kingdom vision of Paul’s blessing in his letter to the Ephesians: “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, **to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.** Amen.” (Ephesians, 3:20,21)

SCOPE & CATEGORIES

Mobilizing for Mission Grants are usually awarded to local congregations, but occasionally also to individuals when their work is understood to bless the local church.

They most often come in amounts of \$250, \$500, \$1,000, but occasionally up to \$5,000, and are considered gifts (they do not require repayment to the Regional Synod).

Grants fall into three categories:

1. Outreach (reaching outward into the neighbourhood and mission field);
2. Multiplication (church growth and expansion);
3. Revitalization (moving inward for personal and corporate transformation).

Please consider carefully which amount and which category you would like to apply for.

ACCOUNTABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY

MfM Grants are awarded within, and for, the community of faith. For that reason, we have several expectations:

1. That grants will be applied for with the blessing, and possible financial partnership, of your local church and classis. The Regional Synod cannot very often offer large amounts of money,
2. That you will submit a post-grant report to the Regional Synod board detailing how the funding was used, and will be open to coaching from a board member if accountability is needed.
3. That you incorporate strong sustainability goals into your proposal. This is for two reasons: a) to plan for your initiative to have lasting impact within the local church, and 2) for long-term ministry goals: that by the time your funding has come to an end, you will have created alternate funding plans.

SECTION A: GRANT TYPE

Name (print): _____

Church membership (which RCA Church in Canada?): _____

Please check as many boxes as possible. The more boxes you check, the more possibility there is for us to find a creative solution for your ministry needs. Grants are awarded based on available funds, applicant needs, and met criteria. Due to funding limitations, not every application will receive a full bursary. Please help us by indicating your willingness to receive a loan, a bursary, or combination of the two (or all three!).

AMOUNT:

- I am applying for a **\$250** Mobilizing for Mission grant.
- I am applying for a **\$500** Mobilizing for Mission grant.
- I am applying for a **\$1,000** Mobilizing for Mission grant.
- I am applying for a **\$5,000** Mobilizing for Mission grant.
- Other:** I am applying for an amount between \$250 - \$5,000. Amount: _____

SECTION B: GRANT CATEGORIES

Please check one.

OUTREACH *require church & classis approval

- Local Mission (formerly Ministry Mobilization Grant *MMG)
 - These grants are awarded to congregations seeking to expand or redirect their local kingdom impact by developing new ministry areas or enhancing current ministries.
 - Grant amounts will be awarded based on funding availability, applicant need and met criteria.
- Short-Term Global Mission and National (Canadian) Mission
 - These grants will be awarded to individuals and teams to support their involvement in short-term global, and short-term national, mission projects.
 - Projects should have a clear impact on the local RCA church, and preference will be given to projects associated with RCA Global Missions.
 - If multiple team members are applying for the same grant, applications are to be completed by each individual participating in the project.
 - Grant amounts will be awarded based on funding availability, applicant need and met criteria.

REVITALIZATION *require church approval

- Strategic Visioning
 - These grants are for churches undertaking an intentional vision-casting process either through Outreach Canada, the Executive Secretary, or through other approved coaches/consultants.
 - Grant amounts will be awarded based on funding availability, applicant need and met criteria.

Laity Discipleship and Leadership Initiatives

- These grants are intended for the encouragement and equipping of the laity, including discipleship and leadership initiatives that help church members grow in faith and be empowered to serve in the kingdom of God. Priority will be given to groups over individuals.
- Processes such as Ridder Church Renewal, Vantage Point 3, 3DM, and Stephen Ministries will be considered. Approval must be given by the Regional Synod CP&D commission, in consultation with the appropriate classis committees and leaders.
- Churches must identify a facilitator for the initiative, who would be willing to be trained and who can commit to implementation.
- Grant amounts will be awarded based on funding availability, applicant need and met criteria.

Awareness and Animation

- These grants are for churches that have identified a call to grow in their awareness of, and engagement with, ministry areas that are outside their experience or comfort zone.
- Initiatives will often take the form of conferences, visits to host sites, and workshops (either hosting or attending).
- Examples include: evangelism, ministry to older adults, refugee support, indigenous justice, human trafficking, disability ministries, creation care, conflict resolution/reconciliation, etc.
- Grant amounts will be awarded based on funding availability, applicant need and met criteria.
- Initiatives must align with RCA positions and Reformed theologies.

MULTIPLICATION *require church & classis approval

New Church Development

- These grants are for starting an RCA church or ministry in Canada where no church or ministry currently exists. This may be defined by location, or by the unique nature of the work.
- Every New Church Development must be connected to a “parent” church whose leadership provides regular mentoring, guidance and support to the project.
- The project must have a written statement of assessment and support from a classis.
- NCD projects will be funded only where the pastor/leader has completed church planting training (or equivalent) or a pastoral skills assessment with favourable results.
- Grant amounts will be awarded based on funding availability, applicant need and met criteria.

OTHER:

- Please explain if your grant initiative does not fit one of the above categories:

SECTION C: EXTRA INFORMATION

All grant categories: please provide the following information to help us assess your eligibility for a grant.

1. Full description of proposed initiative.
2. Why is this important or exciting to you?
3. Proposed timeframe for initiative.
4. Name of organization or facilitator (if applicable).
5. Who will be involved?
6. How will this mobilize the church for discipleship and mission?
7. How will you evaluate this initiative?
8. What is your anticipated budget for this initiative, and what are your other sources of funding? (For mission trips/projects, how much funding will you raise or contribute yourself?)
9. For church planting:
 - a. Written statements of support from “parent” church and classis.
 1. If available, a completed RCA New Congregation plan. <http://multiply.rca.org/resource/new-congregation-plan/>
10. For long-term projects:
 - a. What are your ministry goals: 6 months, 12 months, 2 years?
 - b. How will you build financial sustainability into the plan?
11. What are your prayer requests?

*Definitions and examples available upon request

DEFINITIONS FOR NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENTS

MISSION STATEMENT: *Your reason for being. This can also help to guide decisions about decisions, priorities and actions. This should involve the people and/or location you hope to reach. E.g.: “Loving God and Loving Neighbours in the Greater Toronto Area.”*

VISION STATEMENT: *A statement communicating the clear and inspirational long-term desired change resulting from your congregation’s life and ministry together. What is the goal of this church plant? What is your greatest hope? How will things be different in the future because of this ministry? What do you pray God will do? E.g.: “A community where lives are transformed by the gospel and from which disciples of Jesus are sent out into the world.”*

CURRENT REALITY: *A short description of the real facts associated with this project. E.g.: Are there other churches or similar ministries in the area? What are the demographics of the people and/or the area? Who will be the pastor/leader? What are the pastor’s gift/challenges? Who will the congregation members be? What are some of your congregation’s greatest gifts and challenges? How does the parent church feel about this initiative? Are there any hurdles to be addressed?*

SECTION D: SIGNATURES

ALL APPLICANTS: CHURCH APPROVAL

All project categories (Outreach, Revitalization, Multiplication) must have a pastor's or consistory chair's approval and signature.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PASTOR/CONSISTORY: I have seen the application and approve of the project.

Pastor's Name or Chair of Consistory (print): _____

Date: _____ Pastor's/Chair's Signature: _____

OUTREACH & MULTIPLICATION APPLICANTS: CLASSIS APPROVAL

Outreach and Multiplication categories must have a written statement of assessment/support from a classis. Projects with classis support will be given priority, since the RSC exists to supplement the work of the classis.

TO BE COMPLETED BY CLASSIS EXECUTIVE TEAM (circle one): Ontario / Prairies / B.C.

We (the classis executive team) have read the above application and affirm the applicant's plan for ministry. Yes / No Date: _____

The projects strengths and challenges that we perceive are:

We have discussed this application with the appropriate classis committees, and have approved classis funding for this initiative to the amount of: _____ over _____ years (at _____ per year).

We will also partner in overseeing the initiative in the following ways (e.g.: mentoring, requiring reports, etc.):

Classis Clerk Signature: _____ Classis President: _____

ALL APPLICANTS: PERSONAL SIGNATURE AND REGIONAL SYNOD APPROVAL

Applicant statement: I verify that the information in this form is true, and agree that if I/we receive a grant I will submit a report after the event, or yearly (if the grant is long-term).

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

RSC representative: _____ Date: _____