

Lombard Mennonite Church Mission Matching Grant Program

The purpose of the mission matching grant program is to encourage more involvement with mission at LMC, to encourage those in the church with ministries of passion, and to connect the church with new ministries. Each year, groups comprised of at least three LMC regular attenders can submit an application for a matching grant to support a ministry that they are passionate about. The groups then raise funds for the mission project they chose, receiving a matching grant from the church of between \$500—\$2,000.

GUIDELINES

- A. Matching grant requests must come from an organized supporting group, such as a small group or ad hoc group, of at least three or more regular LMC participants.
- B. Only one matching grant per supporting group can be requested, from \$500—\$2,000.
- C. Ministries must be publicly recognized missional organizations, agencies, or projects to be eligible for a grant. Further criteria/qualifiers:
 1. Assisting the agency should further LMC's vision, goals, and values.
 2. The grant should address one or more fundamental human needs, such as evangelism, or peacemaking, and have a significant impact on the ongoing work of that particular ministry.
 3. The ministry should reflect missional church values: encouraging faith in Christ, empowering the poor and marginalized, encouraging community, extending peace and justice.
 4. Applications are limited to one per organization.
- D. Support group members must financially match the grant request. The matching dollars must be made via contributions through LMC and be designated for that particular matching grant project (i.e. check made out to LMC, with "MG: *Agency Name*" on the memo line).
 1. All funds must be submitted to LMC by November 1, for grant disbursement by December 1. Grants may be paid earlier—once 100% of the matching funds have come in—upon request. Donated funds must be distributed in the fiscal year the grant is approved; they cannot roll over. *Undistributed funds will revert to general LMC mission projects; donors should be advised of this at the time of solicitation.*
 2. Grants are capped at the original amount requested, even if the group should exceed its original pledge goal.
- E. The requesting group must inform the congregation of the agency's work by:
 1. Submitting a *Vital Signs* article by the December issue, highlighting the group's relationship with the ministry and its activities. They should also provide one testimony during a "Mission Moment" segment during worship. Should LMC hold a "mission fair," the group must provide a display.
 2. Inviting LMC members to volunteer in the ongoing work of the organization or ministry, as appropriate.
- F. The Mission Commission reviews all applications based on how well they meet the criteria in section C above. They then make a recommendation to the Ministry Team for final approval.
 1. Mission Commission may approve applications for a lower amount than was requested, should applications exceed the annual Matching Grant budget. Conversely, should the full budget amount not be awarded in matching grants, Mission Commission will distribute the balance according to its goals and priorities.

KEY DATES

- **April 1:** Grant applications are due.
- **May 15:** Mission Commission informs groups of their application status.
- **November 1:** Matching funds are due to the church.

****Submit applications by email to office@lombardmennonite.org****

1. How is God calling you to respond in the community? What resources are needed?

2. What agency/established ministry will you assist?

3. How does the agency's work support LMC's mission and goals?

4. How does the agency address fundamental human needs or support evangelism or peacemaking? What is/will be the ongoing impact of the agency's work?

5. How does the agency reflect Anabaptist and missional church values?

6. Minimum amount of your group's *pledge* for this project: _____
Matching grant request: _____

7. Payment information (name or organization to whom check should be made out, mailing address, website):

8. LMC group primary contact name, phone, and email:

9. Group members (at least three regular LMC attenders):

We commit

- a. To establish and maintain an ongoing relationship with this agency/ministry.
- b. To serve as a liaison between LMC and the agency by:
 - informing the congregation of agency work by submitting at least one *Vital Signs* article
 - sharing about the agency work in at least one "Mission Moment" time during a church service
 - participating in a ministries "fair" should LMC hold one
 - encouraging members of the congregation to volunteer, as appropriate; and

- reporting on the impact of the grant money by the end of the year
- c. To inform donors in writing at the time of solicitation that their names may be released to the primary contact, and to give an option for donors to opt out of this. Donor lists will not be released without proof of this.

Primary Contact Signature (on behalf of the group)

Date Submitted