



Application for Strengthening Churches Grant

Strategies for Strengthening Churches

In addition to all the general ministries of the DOM, the MMBA employs the following strategies for strengthening pastors and churches through partnerships with the BCMD and associational churches that may involve financial grants.

I. Grants for Community Outreach Events/Programs

Goal: The MMBA desires to come alongside churches offering creative outreach events or programs that will show the love of Christ to our communities and advance the cause of the gospel. Such events are designed to create relationships where lost and unchurched neighbors, community leaders and business people can rub shoulders with genuine believers creating opportunities to share the gospel (perhaps for the very first time) in a non-confrontational and caring manner.

MMBA Role:

- To come alongside churches that genuinely wish to reach beyond the walls of the church to their communities with the gospel
- To network with other churches to potentially provide human resources for the event
- To consider a financial grant to assist churches with such events
- Promotion

II. Grants for Seminars/Conferences

Goal: The MMBA desires to offer meaningful seminars/conferences that will train and equip pastors and lay leaders in ministry.

1. Partnering with church sponsored seminars/conferences.

MMBA Role:

- Promotion
- To consider a financial grant to share cost if the event has broader interest.

2. Partnering with BCMD sponsored seminars/conferences.

MMBA Role:

- Suggest topics of interest that the BCM/D might address
- Give potential input during the planning process
- Promotion
- Offer host church facilities
- Make churches aware of a seminar/conference speaker's potential availability to preach in local churches



3. MMBA sponsored seminars/conferences

MMBA Role (Given our limited MMBA personnel, the BCMD and MMBA churches will be the primary initiators of these events.)

- Responsible for the full event – subject matter, speaker(s), location, promotion, funding.

III. Guidelines for Strengthening Churches Grants

Guidelines:

1. All grant requests shall be considered and approved by the members of the MMBA On Mission Council (OMC). **Their decision will be final.**
2. Applications for grants will be considered twice a year in the March and July meetings of the OMC. The application form (on page 4 of this document) should be sent to the MMBA office no later than the 15th day of those months. Form can be returned via email at dom@midmarylandba.org or via mail to MMBA, % CrossLife Community Church, 6625 Selnick Drive, Suite B; Elkridge, MD 21075
3. No more than two MMBA Strengthening Churches grants will be given to any church within a 5-year period. It is not the intent of MMBA grants to become an annual part of a church's outreach budget.
4. A grant may be for no more than \$2,000.
5. In addition to the above guidelines, the OMC will also consider several other factors together to make their final decision. These factors include:
 - Preferences for projects deemed by the OMC to meet the greatest needs and to represent the best stewardship of MMBA funds.
 - Preferences for projects that include multi-church cooperation.
 - Preferences for new and creative outreach projects and not to annual events that have been on a church's calendar for years.
 - Preferences for churches that have faithfully given financially to the Association in the last 2 calendar years.
 - Preferences for projects in which the local church covers at least half the cost of the project.



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Church Name: _____

Lead Pastor Contact Information:

Name: _____ Email _____

Phone # _____

Church information: Average worship attendance: _____ Total budget: _____

Detailed Project Description: (Please use a separate sheet, attaching any available flyers or other publicity material.)

Is this a first-time project? YES _____ NO _____

If "No" how many times has this event been done before? _____

Total cost of the project _____ Requested grant amount _____

Our church leadership understands and agrees that the approval of grants is the responsibility of the On Mission Council (OMC) of the MMBA and their decision is final. Requests or appeals are NOT to be brought before the entire Association in business sessions. We agree.

Within 2 weeks of the completion of the event, we agree to send a written evaluation of the event to the OMC. We agree

Pastor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____