



MID-SOUTH DISTRICT LCMS

MINISTRY FOUNDATION GRANT

MINISTRY SUSTAINABILITY & PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Purpose: Foundation grants are intended to strengthen long-term ministry sustainability—not primarily to fund aesthetic or cosmetic improvements. Applicants must demonstrate a clear connection between the proposed physical improvements, the congregation's mission, financial stewardship, and future ministry viability.

I. Congregation Information

Congregation Name:

Address:

City / State / ZIP:

Pastor:

Primary Contact:

Phone / Email:

Congregational Membership:

Average Weekly Worship Attendance:

Most Recent Financial Review / Audit Date:

II. Project Summary

Project Title:

Amount Requested from Ministry Foundation:

\$ _____

Total Estimated Project Cost:

\$ _____

Project Description:

III. Ministry Sustainability Plan

Explain how the proposed physical improvements will contribute to long-term sustainability of the ministry. Address mission support, ministry continuity, outreach/growth opportunities, reduced future costs, accessibility, facility utilization, and

measurable outcomes.

Why is this a ministry sustainability investment rather than primarily an aesthetic improvement?

What would be the ministry consequences if the project is not completed?

How will the congregation measure the project's ministry impact over the first 3 years?

IV. Urgency and Financial Need

Why must the project be addressed now?

Consequences of delay (1 year / 3 years / 5 years):

Describe the congregation's financial need and why Foundation assistance is necessary.

V. Criticality of Foundation Issues

Documented Health and Safety Risks

☐ Structural ☐ Electrical ☐ Fire/Life Safety ☐ Water/Mold ☐ Roofing ☐ Plumbing ☐ Accessibility ☐ HVAC ☐ Environmental ☐ Other:

Severity of Project Damage

☐ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Significant ☐ Severe/Critical ☐ Emergency

Readiness for Remediation

☐ Contractor identified ☐ Estimates obtained ☐ Plans/specifications developed ☐ Permits addressed ☐ Funding plan ready

Documentation attached

☐ Inspection report ☐ Contractor assessment ☐ Engineer/architect report ☐ Insurance report ☐ Photos ☐ Code/government notice
☐ Other: _____

VI. Congregational Financial Information

Required Financial Statements

☐ Most recent Income Statement ☐ Most recent Balance Sheet

Additional financial documents

☐ Current-year statements ☐ Budget ☐ Actual-to-budget comparison ☐ Debt schedule ☐ Financial review/audit

VII. Funds Available for the Project

List all funds currently available or reasonably anticipated, including donations, insurance proceeds, loans, reserves, endowment distributions, and other grants.

See funding table below.

Funding Source	Amount	Confirmed / Pending
Cash designated for project	\$	
Donations received for project	\$	
Pledges / commitments	\$	
Estimated insurance proceeds	\$	
Endowment / foundation distribution	\$	
Congregational reserves	\$	
Loan proceeds	\$	
Other grants	\$	
Other funding	\$	
TOTAL	\$	

VIII. Ability to Fund Without Foundation Grant

Could the congregation complete the improvements without a Foundation grant?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially

Required explanation

IX. Long-Term Strategic Planning

Strategic planning commitment

☐ Willing to participate ☐ Already completed a plan ☐ Planning in progress ☐ Willing to develop a plan as a grant condition

Three-to-five-year ministry vision

How will facility decisions be integrated into long-term mission and financial planning?

X. Ministry Impact & Outcomes

Worship / congregational life

Christian education / discipleship

Children, youth, families / community outreach

Mission / evangelism / other ministry opportunities

XI. Project Outcomes and Accountability

Identify measurable outcomes, how they will be measured, and target dates.

XII. Congregational Certification

We certify that the information and supporting documentation are accurate and complete. We understand that Foundation funds are intended to strengthen long-term ministry sustainability and are not intended primarily for aesthetic or cosmetic improvements. We agree to provide reasonable follow-up information and, if requested, participate in long-term strategic planning.

President / Chairperson Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Pastor Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Treasurer Signature:

_____ Date: _____

XIII. Required Supporting Documentation Checklist

- ☐ Most recent Income Statement
- ☐ Most recent Balance Sheet
- ☐ Current budget and current-year financial statements
- ☐ Documentation of project funds and major funding commitments
- ☐ Contractor bids / estimates

- ☐ Inspection or engineering reports
- ☐ Insurance documentation, if applicable
- ☐ Photographs of damage or deficiencies
- ☐ Project timeline and permits, if applicable
- ☐ Ministry sustainability plan / strategic planning information
- ☐ Measurable project outcomes

XIV. District Review Criteria — For District Use

Evaluation Area	Suggested Weight
Ministry sustainability impact	25%
Urgency and financial need	20%
Criticality of facility issues	20%
Congregational financial participation	15%
Readiness for remediation	10%
Long-term strategic planning commitment	10%
TOTAL	100%

Committee Decision: ☐ Approved ☐ Approved with Conditions ☐ Deferred – Additional Information Required ☐ Declined

Amount Approved: \$_____ Conditions / Comments:
