

CANADIAN CHURCH GROWTH FUND (CCGF)

REGIONAL SYNOD OF CANADA COMMISSION ON CHURCH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

INFORMATION FOR CHURCHES

The Regional Synod of Canada's fund for helping churches is called the Canadian Church Growth Fund. The money in this fund comes entirely from an asking to the congregations in our Synod. A policy document guides the Synod C.P.&D. Commission's decision to approve or deny requests from this fund. In that document there are several categories under which a church may submit a request. They are:

NCD - These are churches that are less than 3 years old and needing funds for operation or special growth projects. Grants last for no more than 3 years.

CR - These are established churches that are looking to generate renewal in their congregations and/or new directions of ministry.

CM - These are new or established churches which will require yearly, ongoing funding to carry out ministry in a specialized mission context.

CL - These are churches that have a short term crisis or opportunity where a loan of funds for 6 months could help. -

PP - Pilot projects are experiments in church development that are initiated by Synod or in cooperation with a classis. -

LD - Leadership development is the act of investing in people in order to train them in the skills of church leadership.

These are very brief descriptions and we recommend that you request a copy of the policy document from synod office for complete descriptions and expectations.

You will note that there are no funds for buildings or capital ventures. Funds for these needs are available through General Synod and access to these funds are facilitated by Classis and Synod.

**REGIONAL SYNOD OF CANADA
C.P. & D. COMMISSION
REFORMED CHURCH IN CANADA**

**GUIDELINES FOR
THE CANADIAN CHURCH GROWTH FUND**

The Canadian Church Growth Fund is supplied by the gifts of RCC people for the purpose of growth under three designations: new church development, congregational renewal or Canadian mission work. The following guidelines are the policies which will determine eligibility for requesting money from this fund.

The Church Growth Fund is intended for the purpose of providing grants to churches for the work of ministry. It is not a fund for capital projects. The amounts that are available for each area of church ministry work are pre-set by percentage of the total money available and money from one designation cannot be used for any other designation except by the approval of the full synod. The funds from the Canadian Church Growth Fund cannot be used for any purpose, at any time, other than for the criteria laid out in these policies.

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT (NCD)

New church development is defined as the starting of an RCC ministry where no ministry currently exists. This may be defined by location or by the unique nature of the work to be done. Any NCD project may apply for funds subject to meeting the following criteria.

1. Every NCD must be connected to a “parent” church whose pastor and consistory would give mentoring and guidance to the project. It would be favorable if there were also some financial commitment from the parent church. In cases where the NCD has not been created by an existing church, we require that the project would be adopted by one before any funding would be considered. The reason for this policy is that too often NCD projects fail as much for lack of spiritual support and guidance as they do for lack of financial support. To give a work its best chance: we insist on a spiritual support network being in place before funds are requested.

2. A NCD will be considered for support only where the work has a written statement of assessment and support from a classis. The assessment will include comments as to the project’s strengths and weaknesses. Projects that also have classis funding involved will be given first priority. The reason for this is that synod is here primarily to supplement the work of classis, not to replace it or compete with it. It will also indicate where classis feels a commitment to the project on its part.

3. NCD projects will be funded only where the pastor has completed either NCD training or completed an NCD pastor assessment and received a favorable evaluation.

Furthermore, to request funding the pastor must make a commitment to remain with the new church for the three years of funding. Our reason for this is that we recognize NCD ministry as specialized ministry that requires a specific personality and gift mix. The most significant controllable factor in an NCD project's success or failure is the suitability of the pastor for church planting. Changing that pastor in mid course is a crucial mistake that must be avoided for the sake of continuity in the vision and plan.

4. All NCD support from the Canadian church growth fund will be for a maximum of three (3) years. Typically, the amounts will be \$10,000, \$6,000 and \$3,000 in successive years. Re-application will not be considered once the term is completed. Regardless of what stage they are in, Synods CP&D will not help fund more than three NCD projects at one time.

5. To request funds from the Canadian church growth fund, NCD projects must present a specific ministry plan that includes:

- a vision statement
- the philosophy of ministry
- particular goals for 6 mos., 1 year, 2 years and 3 years
- evangelism plan
- discipleship/assimilation plan
- budget (filed each year of funding)

Funding will be connected to a yearly evaluation of the fulfillment of specific goals.

CHURCH RENEWAL (CR)

Church renewal is defined as an existing congregation choosing to retool for a new style of ministry or to develop a new ministry area to add to its current ministry efforts. For CR churches to apply for grants they must be willing to have their project evaluated by its production of growth as mutually agreed upon by the congregation, classis and Synod CP&D. Funding agreements remain in effect only as the evaluations reflect movement toward the stated goals.

In order for CR grants a church must provide information on the following criteria:

1. A full description of the proposed new ministry direction, complete with rationale for the venture. With this description should come a classis assessment of the project and a statement of support and, if any, its financial commitment.
2. There will be no funding given for the renewal of buildings. The reason for this is that the mandate of this fund is to bring growth and buildings do not produce growth, ministry does. A building is, in itself; not a growth project.
3. For any request to be considered the pastor must state a commitment to stay with the congregation for the length of the proposed renewal project. Leadership is vital to any project and there must be the commitment on the pastor's part to see the work through to the point where it is well underway. Changes in pastoral leadership would distract efforts,

blur the original vision and slow the process down, if not totally derail it.

4. Every request for funds must be accompanied by the church's statement of its vision and mission, philosophy of ministry statement; evangelism and discipleship plan, specific goals for the project at 6 mos., 1 year, 2 years and 3 years. Funding will be connected to yearly evaluation based on these goals.

5. All CR finds will be released over 3 years. Typically, the finding for renewal will be \$6,000, \$4,000 and \$2,000 a year over three successive years. Reapplication will not be considered at the end of the 3 year term.

6. Each year a CR church must file its annual financial report and budget with Synod CP&D.

7. There will not be more than 3 CR projects under the care of Synod at one time.

CANADIAN MISSION CHURCHES (CMC)

A Canadian mission church is defined as a church that is in need of financial support for a period of time longer than 3 years. It is recognized that some ministries are valuable and must exist even when they cannot support themselves. As part of our mission we will support these churches for as long as it seems wise and the work is viable.

In order to receive financial aid from the Canadian church growth thud a CMC must provide:

1. A written statement of assessment and support from the classis. The assessment should come to Synod CP&D yearly and include an evaluation of the effectiveness and necessity of the work. If the classis is supporting this work financially as well, a statement of its support is requested. In this case, we are counting on classis to carry out the evaluation because such situations often require a greater sensitivity than Synod can develop because of distance or unfamiliarity.

2. Statements of the CMC'S vision and mission, its philosophy of ministry, its plans for evangelism and discipleship, and yearly it must provide its financial statement and budget for the coming year.

3. A description of the mission nature of the church work. To fund any work, synod must first know what is the work being done.

4. Its specific goals for the year(s) ahead. The funding will be tied to the fulfillment of these goals as assessed by classis.

5. The maximum any CMC will receive is \$10,000 a year. Synod will support only 2 CMC projects in any given year.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The RSC understands the significance of leadership and is committed to developing leaders, particularly lay leaders. The Canadian Church Growth Fund will respond to a leadership training or development opportunity on a per request basis. To receive funds the following criteria must be met

1. A clear proposal is submitted outlining the program, the goals and the anticipated benefits of the program.
2. It is preferred that each proposal must come with the support of a Classis or Classis committee, unless it is a proposal of Synod itself.
3. Each proposal must provide a clear statement of how the funds will be disbursed and what other funding has been sought. Projects involving personal, congregational and/or Classis funding will be preferred.
4. The total amount granted per proposal will not exceed \$2000.
5. Any approved project must have an accountable person who will provide all receipts and provide a written evaluation, along with specific recommendations for the RCC based on what he/she has learned.

CONCLUSION

It is not the intention of this fund to replace the work of the classes within our synod. It is our goal, wherever possible, to work with classes in growing the local churches within our boundaries. To that end, the Synod C P & D commission may also require congregations to carry out some action, or become involved in some program which is not specifically mentioned here, or provide some further information before funding will be considered or granted. Our goal is to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us and even more importantly, to be helpful in building the Kingdom of God through helping to strengthen churches in our Regional Synod of Canada.

May the grace of God help us in this ministry.

June 1995

CANADIAN CHURCH GROWTH FUND APPLICATION

PART 1 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Today's Date:

Name of Ministry:

Location:

Classis:

Contact:

Have you seen the brief descriptions of funding possibilities?

Under which category does your application fall?

Which pastor is giving supervision?

Give a brief description of how the funds will be used:

Is Classis involved with this situation? How?

What other sources of income/fund raising have you pursued for this need?

Amount Requested:

PART 2 – CLASSIS INPUT

Is Classis CP&D recommending this application?

Has Classis voted in favour of forwarding the application?

Are there any special factors impacting this application?

PART 3 – REGIONAL SYNOD INPUT

Date of receiving this application:

Documentation Received:

Yes

No

- ◆ **Mission/vision statement**
- ◆ **Financial Statements**
- ◆ **Current Budget**
- ◆ **Detailed Description of Need**
- ◆ **Classis Support**
- ◆ **Classis Involvement**
- ◆ **Other funding involved**

Comments:

Record of discussion and action taken:

Funding approved _____

denied _____

Reason:

Date of final action:

Have you applied for EVCD MATCHING NEW MISSION PROGRAM GRANT ?

This matching grant is to build partnerships with the denomination, regional synods, classes and churches to further the Kingdom of God by providing resources to new ministries that bring the good news of God's grace to a hurting world.

<http://www.rca.org/multiply/index.html>

