

MISSION FUND GUIDELINES
For The
MISSION ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE
Of The
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE

Voted May 8, 2020

The Mission Fund is composed of two distinct funds and for accounting and allocation purposes must remain separate so as to protect the integrity of both funds.

The Ministries of Christian Discipleship Fund shall be used to support cooperative ministries of making Christian disciples in the ABCOPAD Region. At least fifty percent (50%) of the monies distributed in grants from this fund, during a calendar year, shall support camping, conferencing, retreats and children and youth ministries. Other cooperative ministries to be considered from this fund are youth and family events, leader training, and development and similar joint evangelistic and educational programs.

The Release God's Power Mission Fund of the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware, was brought into being from the monies collected from the Release God's Power Capital Funds Campaign. The purpose of this fund shall be to support new and expanded ministries of American Baptist congregations in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Priority shall be given to requests that fall clearly within the objectives of the Capital Funds Campaign:

- a. Help existing churches reach new people,
- b. Increase support of youth and family ministries,
- c. Start new churches and help existing churches relocate,
- d. Expand leadership training and development,
- e. And respond to new opportunities for mission.

The Release God's Power Mission Fund continues to remain open so as to receive monies from bequests, legacies and other gifts, with the intent of increasing its size and providing greater income to respond to regional mission needs.

1. The Ministries of Christian Discipleship Fund and the Release God's Power Fund, though kept separate for accounting and allocation purposes so as to protect the integrity of both funds, are united in the ministries of American Baptist Churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Henceforth, the two funds will herein be referred to as "The Mission Fund".
2. The operation of The Mission Fund shall continue indefinitely, unless the ABCOPAD Board acts to rescind or amend these guidelines, which action shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting at a regular or special meeting of the Board, provided that written notice of such proposed change has been given to Board members at least thirty (30) days in advance.
3. The ABCOPAD Board shall have oversight of The Mission Fund, and be responsible for the safekeeping, investment, and disbursements of monies out of the fund.
4. The monies of The Mission Fund shall be included in the investment portfolio of ABCOPAD and be managed under the same policies that govern other funds of ABCOPAD, including policies pertaining to the preserving of principal sums and the annual distribution for growth and earnings. Within The Mission Fund, the identity of the Ministries of Christian Discipleship and the Release God's Power Mission Fund shall be maintained and shall be credited or debited with its prorated share of gains or losses experienced by all funds within the investment portfolio.
5. The amount available for grants shall be limited to earnings allocated to The Mission Fund from the investment portfolio. 10% of any funds from church closures, after all incurred expenses have been satisfied, shall be added to the Legacy Fund.

6. The purpose for a grant must have a clear relationship to ABCOPAD consistent with its tax status, purposes, goals and objectives.
7. No monies from The Mission Fund shall ever be used to cover any ongoing budget item or deficit of ABCOPAD.
8. A Mission Allocations Committee of ten (10) persons, five (5) of whom shall be Board Members and including at least one representative from each of the six (6) Administrative Areas, shall be appointed by the ABCOPAD President and confirmed by the Executive Committee or the ABCOPAD Board. The Regional Executive Pastor (or delegate) and the ABCOPAD Treasurer shall serve ex-officio.

The appointments will be made at each biennial for a four- (4) year term. Vacancies between biennials shall be filled as needed. No person can serve for more than two four- (4) year consecutive terms. The Mission Allocations Committee shall receive all requests for grants from The Mission Fund and make recommendations to the Board for its approval. The Committee shall also be authorized to make grants between Board meetings if they are approved by the Executive Committee and reported to the Board.
9. Requests must be submitted on a standard one-page form available to the churches through the Regional Pastors. All forms must be typed and sent to the Regional Pastor related to that church or organization's administrative area, prior to the published cut-off date for grant requests. The Regional Pastor will submit the request along with the completed Regional Pastor reporting form to the ABCOPAD Treasurer.
10. So as to avoid a conflict of interest, requests initiated by the Board, or any of its Committees or Ministry Teams must follow the same procedures where a request comes before The Mission Allocations Committee. Such requests will be considered within the context of all other requests.
11. All requests must come from a duly recognized church or entity of ABCOPAD. Special attention shall be accorded by The Mission Allocations Committee to requests from smaller churches with limited resources and from groups and programs which demonstrate long-range, cooperative planning and have not recently received a grant through The Mission Allocations Committee.
13. Churches submitting a grant request must be actively, financially supporting the ministry of ABCOPAD through Partners in Ministry. Applicants should demonstrate active fiscal partnership with ABCOPAD, by having supported Partners in Ministry for a minimum of the previous two years. Where this is not the case the committee should look for evidence of new/renewed partnership.
14. applicants must have submitted their current year Cooperative Church Annual Report for fall grants, and previous year reports for spring grants.
15. At each ABCOPAD Board meeting, The Mission Allocations Committee shall provide a written summary report of any grants made since the previous meeting. The ABCOPAD Board shall vote on the report of the Committee's recommendation for grants to be received, after which the checks will be cut.
16. When the purpose for which the grant was made is completed, the group, which received the grant, must submit a typewritten report (form available through Regional Pastors) to The Mission Allocations Committee, giving a report of program outcomes and the funds expended. Any unexpended portion of the grant shall be sent to the ABCOPAD Treasurer so as to be returned to the fund from which it came.
17. Years when all funds are not distributed the remaining funds will be made available for future grant cycles when earnings may be low or non-existent.
18. To promote The Mission Fund, reports on the status and helpfulness of The Fund shall be publicized for the ABCOPAD family as often as possible. To foster partnership between the region and churches, applicants shall agree to work with a Region Staff Pastor, Region Associate, or member of the Mission Allocation Committee for follow up on grant implementation.

19. The Mission Allocation Committee shall look for the evidence of the following when considering grant applications.
- A) Relational partnership. Applicants should be involved in or willing to commit (1 or 2) of the following 6 ABCOPAD ministries.
 - 1) Pastor a part of an LLC
 - 2) Pastoral or lay congregants attend the Biennial Leadership Conference
 - 3) Participation in online ACTS classes
 - 4) New pastoral leadership participate in ABCOPAD orientation
 - 5) ABW Ministries or AB Men's Group
 - 6) Association ties
 - B) Evidence of strategic planning, envisioning, and buy-in from a large portion of the congregation
 - 1) All applications shall include a signature from the Pastor of the church
 - C) Evidence of enhancing a present ministry or expanding into new ministries
 - D) Evidence of long term congregational viability