

## ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION - 2017



A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary, to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." A panel will select recipients for grants of up to \$5,000. Awards will be granted only to ministries of an American Baptist church in good standing with their Region. This is a change from previous grant cycles. We will no longer award grants to organizations affiliated with churches such as a cooperative group that includes non-ABC churches; applications must be submitted by an ABC church for work being done directly by that church.

Only one application per church will be considered within a 24-month period. Because this change was made following the Fall 2016 cycle, recipients of a Spring 2016 grant are eligible to apply.

Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions, rainy day funds, church benevolent funds, regular ongoing church operating expenses (i.e. utilities, insurance), repairs, or for capital improvements to facilities. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church that is applying for the grant; checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

Tab through the document to fill in all the fields below.

1. Applicant Information

Name of Church: First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon Illinois  
Mailing Address: 1600 Briarwood Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
Phone: 618-316-0014 Federal Tax ID#: 37-6006960  
Name of Region: Great Rivers Region  
Contact person (person completing this form): Gail Farnham  
Email of contact person: gailfar43@gmail.com

Does your church contribute to United Mission? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you previously been awarded an ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
If so, have you submitted your report on the use of the funds? ☒ Yes ☐ No

2. What ministry or group will use these funds?

Brown Bag Ministry

3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?

Please include a very brief and specific statement on how the money will be spent. For example: to purchase school supplies for 100 elementary school children; to provide summer camp scholarships for 10 children from low-income families; purchase diapers and wipes for single mothers. You are encouraged to attach a longer description (no more than one page) of the ministry or project.

To purchase food supplies for weekend food for at-risk children from three school locations.

4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? What impact do you hope to make on the target group or community?

Teachers report that children who have food during the weekend are more attentive and better learners than those going without...feed the body first, then feed the mind.

5. Total cost of the project: \$7,900

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$5,000

7. List other funding source(s): Our church members (over and above the budget), a local sorority which brings food items and one other church which gives an annual amount ranging

from \$100 - \$600.

8. Please submit along with your application a copy of:
  - Your mission statement.
  - A financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY. This can be a budget or projected budget, and should not exceed 2 pages. Church budgets are not acceptable.

By submitting this application on behalf of (church name) First Baptist Church, I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct. We agree to use and/or disburse any grant funds awarded for the sole purpose as described within this application. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo/photos within six months of receipt of the grant.

Application submitted by (name of person): Gail Farnham (your name typed here is your electronic signature)

Date: 7/13/2017

**Please note:**

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline September 1. Grants will be distributed no later than October 15.
- Only electronic submissions of completed applications and supporting documents will be accepted. Completed applications should be sent via email to [Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org](mailto:Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org).
- Please review the instructions that follow and initial at the bottom to indicate you have read this information.

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## **Instructions and information for completing the 2017 ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant application**

### **1. General information**

Awards will be granted only to ministries of an American Baptist church in good standing with their Region. This is a change from previous grant cycles. We will no longer award grants to organizations affiliated with churches such as a cooperative group that include non-ABC churches; applications must be submitted by an ABC church in good standing.

When determining Grants awards, the following criteria will be considered: whether the church is in good standing within the region; whether the church contributes to United Mission; number of and amounts of previous Matthew 25 Grants received; sustainability of ministry beyond Matthew 25 Grant funding; description of ministry and needs addressed by funding; and the budget submitted along with this application.

Checks will be made payable to the church. Checks will not be made to an individual or ministry.

### **3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?**

Briefly describe what will be purchased with the grant funds if awarded. Be specific with the expected use of these funds. This should be a very short and specific statement on where the money will be spent, do not include a lengthy narrative of the ministry project.

You are encouraged to provide a longer description of the ministry but this additional information must be limited to no more than one page in length and submitted as an attachment.

Please note that grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions and salaries, for capital improvements to church facilities, to pay for regular ongoing church operating expenses (i.e. utilities, insurance) or repairs, or to maintain a "Rainy Day fund" or church benevolent fund.

### **4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?**

Describe how the Matthew 25 grant funds will benefit those less fortunate. What effect and impact do you hope to have on individuals battling poverty or the community you are hoping to serve?

**5. Total cost of the project**

List the total amount of this project or ministry need.

**6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant.**

One application per church will be considered per 24 month period. Because this change was made following the Fall 2016 grant cycle, applicants who received funding in Spring 2016 are eligible to apply for the Fall 2017 grant cycle. The maximum amount awarded is \$5,000. If you have previously been a Matthew 25 grant recipient, you must have submitted a follow-up report in order to be eligible to reapply.

**7. Your other funding source(s).**

List all other sources providing funding for this ministry.

**8. Please submit with your application a copy of:**

**- Your mission statement**

Include as an attachment a copy of the church or ministry's mission statement.

**- A financial statement for this ministry**

This budget or projected budget must include itemized expenses and income for the ministry applying for the Matthew 25 grant funding. Church budgets are not acceptable.

**Other information and requirements**

By submitting an application,

- You certify that all information submitted is true and correct;
- You agree to use and/or disburse any awarded grant funds for the sole purpose as described within this application;
- You agree to supply a one page report on the use of funds and a photo/photos within six months of receipt of the grant;
- You give ABCUSA permission to share your story via the ABCUSA website or newsletter;
- You give ABCUSA permission to use the photograph(s) submitted for printing and/or posting.

I have reviewed the instructions provided. (initial here) gf

Your typed name and initials are your electronic signatures on this document.

ADDENDUM: First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois

The First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, is applying for Matthew 25 Grant Funds in the amount of \$5000, however, any amount awarded to us would be greatly appreciated. Receipt of the monies will help us continue our weekly Brown Bag food program to 180 children in the city school system, plus one school on the outlying edge of Mt. Vernon.

Our Brown Bag food program helps define who we are as a church body, allowing us to demonstrate **our Mission Statement which is "Loving God – Serving Others" in a very tangible way.** Prior to 2008, we were a 'formerly large' church wondering how long we would be able to stay open. As we searched for something meaningful to do, we kept coming back to the need to feed our children. Our program started small, with the preparation and delivery of 30 food bags per week as a step of faith. Despite our continuing decline in attendance and advancing ages, the program has continued and grown. With its growth, we have found a way to meet a genuine need in our own community. In the nine preceding school years, we have provided 29,541 food bags. We don't know whether our church will grow again, however, we do know we will continue to serve the children as long as we are here.

As we are preparing for our 10th year of the Brown Bag food program, we are excited and proud of the differences it makes in the Mt. Vernon area. Teachers continue to tell us that our food supplies for the weekends help meet the basic needs of children-at-risk. They feel it results in a better learning environment for the 180 children we served in grades K – 8. Each bag contains 11 items including two fresh fruits, two protein, two breakfast items, 1 pudding, and four other snacks. With costs about \$2 per bag, and providing 180 bags for 22 2-day weekends, our cost runs about \$7,920 for the school year. The church bears the cost of the actual bags, etc. and uses every cent of donations received to purchase the food items.

We applied for and received monies from you in the fall of 2015 and feel that money allowed us to fulfill our program demands for that school year and have a small nest egg going into the next school year. We no longer question whether the funds will be there, we simply commit to the need and God does provide.

We plan visit churches throughout the county to share the fundamentals of our program and hope to interest some others in starting similar programs in the rural schools.

Last school year cost about \$7800, with a record 180 bags per week for 22 weekends. This is an amazing accomplishment for a congregation whose average attendance is around 25 per week, with 5 small children in that number. This next school year we have committed to approximately 180 bags each week for 22 or 23 weekends, a cost of over \$7,900. Receipt of the grant funds will allow us to meet those needs and have funding to begin the next year.

**Our operating budget does not include this program as a line item, relying instead completely on donations. About 1/8 of the required funds are received from one other church and two sororities.** We continue to look for new sources of revenue to help sustain and expand our program. We thank you for your consideration.

/s/Gail Farnham, Moderator (gailfar43@gmail.com)

First Baptist Church, 1600 Salem Road, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864