

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION - 2018



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.

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 or repairs 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: Emerson Avenue Baptist Church
Mailing Address: 308 N. Emerson Ave Indianapolis, IN 46219
Phone: 317-356-0965 Federal Tax ID#: 35-1868751
Name of Region: American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis
Contact person (person completing this form): Rev. Justin Thornburgh
Email of contact person: pastor@emersonab.org

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? Emerson Avenue Baptist Church Food Pantry and Food Justice Ministry
3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?
To purchase the equipment necessary to begin adding cooking lessons as part of our food pantry ministry: Demonstration table, induction burner, pots and pans, utensils, knives, cutting boards, and food processor. We would also use funds to rent a truck for our monthly pick up from the food bank.
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? This will assist individuals battling poverty by giving them the knowledge and ability to use not only the items they receive from the food pantry in a healthy way, but will also introduce them with methods to cook some of the more unknown foods that sometimes come from the food bank.

When living on a tight food budget, cooking healthily is not the easiest thing to do. We hope to encourage health eating habits so that our guests will become healthier and thus able to begin the process of finding employment.

5. Total cost of the project: \$3,600
6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$4,000
7. List other funding source(s): Other funding comes from donations received directly to the pantry either in the form of food or cash. This has always been a self-sustaining ministry.
8. Please submit along with your application a copy of:
 - see attached

By submitting this application on behalf of Emerson Avenue 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 Justin Thornburgh: Justin A. Thornburgh
Date: 8/9/2018

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.
- Please review the instructions that follow and initial at the bottom to indicate you have read this information.

Instructions and information for completing the 2018 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. 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)

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

Matthew 25 Grant Application Narrative Emerson Avenue Baptist Church

For over 20 years Emerson Avenue Baptist Church has been the home of a neighborhood food pantry. This ministry began as the work and vision of a few people who saw the need to assist our neighbors who were going hungry. The pantry began and for the first 15 years ran as a traditional pantry, meaning that when a guest (then called client) arrived they received a pre-packed bag of food. It was helpful but very impersonal and paternalistic (we know what you need better than you do).

In 2012 a new director began to lead this ministry. This director (a single parent with three young children) had themselves been a guest of other pantries. They understood what he felt like to be considered just a number and told what was a best for them. This new director decided to change the pantry's praxis and began to make it a guest centered ministry. They had noticed that there was often food take out of bags and left in the parking lot, and so they ended the era of the pre-packed bags. Instead all of the products were put on shelves for the guests to choose which items would best suit their needs. The director also began to engage the guests to get their suggestions on how to run things in a more just and humane way.

In 2013 a new pastor came to the church who bought into this new vision and allowed the freedom to experiment and grow. Over time, through partnerships and relationships, the pantry grew to the point that now it takes up the entire basement and the guests shop as though they are at a grocery store. The response from the guests and volunteers has been nothing but positive. As one of the regular guests said, "I know it sounds weird, but I like coming here. You guys are the best pantry because you are the nicest. You treat us like people." The goal of treating the guests as people rather than statistics was working.

As the pantry grew we planted a garden in an adjacent lot and began to receive lots of fresh produce. The food bank also provided more and more produce. One time we received hundreds of pounds of potatoes. As the pastor was helping a guest they picked up one of the potatoes and asked, "What do you do with it? How do you cook it?" The pastor was dismayed until he learned that this person had only ever had boxed mashed potatoes or french fries that they had no idea what to do with a fresh potato, and the seed of this grant request was planted. The same kind of conversation happened again and again with chard, collards, zucchini, and others. It became clear to the pastor that there was a need for folks to learn how to cook what they were receiving or else we would begin to see food being left in the lot and our mission of feeding those who are hungry would falter.

It is know that when one eats healthily and consistently they do better at work and in school. We want to make sure all of our guests have the best opportunity possible to succeed at home, work, and school, and so we want to be able to offer cooking classes for people as they wait for their turn to shop. We want to teach them how to peel a potato, de-stem chard, and sauté a squash. We want them to be able to use the food they receive to give them the best opportunity to succeed in their lives. This grant would allow us to achieve this dream by providing: a demonstration table, induction burners, pots and pans, knives, cutting boards, and many other items necessary for a well stocked kitchen.

Church Mission Statement

Emerson Avenue Baptist Church, an American Baptist Congregation, is called to share the love of God with our church family, our Eastside neighbors, and the greater community.

Emerson Avenue Baptist Pantry and Food Justice Ministry Projected Budget

All income for pantry comes from direct donations. There is no money that comes from the church budget.

Annual Income: \$2,000 in cash donations
\$1,000 in in-kind/food stuffs donations
\$4,000 Matthew 25 Grant
Total Cash - \$6,000

Total expenses: Van rental - \$840
Supplemental food - \$1,000
Garden - \$300
Incidentals (cleaning supplies, bags, gloves, etc) - \$500
Cooking Demonstration Table - \$1,976
Induction Burners - \$100
Stainless Steel Cookware - \$150
Knives - \$50
Utensils - \$26
Non-stick Induction Cookware - \$60
Food Processor - \$60
Cutting Boards - \$12
Stainless Bowl Set - \$36
Total Expense - \$5,050

Any surplus to be used on shipping of material from grant award.