

## 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: LifeSpring Community Church

Mailing Address: 508 Washington St., Ravenswood, WV 26164

Phone: 304-275-3212

Federal Tax ID#: 81-3111441

Name of Region: West Virginia Baptist Convention

Contact person (person completing this form): Mary Beth McCloy

Email of contact person: marybethmccloy@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?

LifeSpring's aquaponics 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.

Grant funds will be used to purchase supplies to upgrade our greenhouse and build two more systems in order to increase the amount of food we are able to give away to the community. See attachment for details.

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?

Fifty percent of the working age adults in our community are without jobs. 15% are beneath the poverty level. This project will enable us to increase the reach of our feeding ministry, which provides fresh vegetables and tilapia for our neighbors in low-income housing. By involving the neighborhood in planting and harvesting, we hope to increase both their nutrition levels and their self-esteem.

5. Total cost of the project: \$2,800

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$2,800

7. List other funding source(s): The greenhouse and utilities costs are already covered in the church budget, as are the upkeep costs for the original aquaponics system. This grant would enable us to create two new systems.
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) LifeSpring Community 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): Rev. Mary Beth McCloy (your name typed here is your electronic signature)

Date: 8/14/18

**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 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) mm

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

## Aquaponics Upgrade Project Budget

Tilapia for new system (150 fingerlings)	\$300
Greenhouse plastic replacement	\$400
Components for two additional systems	\$1,800
Greenhouse fan	\$300

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Total	\$2,800
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LifeSpring Community Church is small church that is less than a decade old. It was founded with a passion for reaching those who do not “fit in” in other churches, such as the dechurched, church-wounded, the immigrant, and the marginalized. LifeSpring is located on the main street in Ravenswood, West Virginia, near businesses, empty store fronts, and low-income apartments. Ravenswood was once a thriving community, with thousands of people employed at the large aluminum plant just outside of town, but the plant closed in 2015. Now, 15.4% of the population live below the poverty level.

LifeSpring serves the impoverished in the area through three feeding programs. Throughout the year, we serve a lunch every Wednesday, including monthly picnics at one of the local housing developments rather than at the church building. During the summer, we partner with other churches to feed migrant workers on local farms.

Our third program is an aquaponics garden. Our church rents a building which was once a garden store and came with a greenhouse out back. Rather than use it for storage, we asked God how we could use it for ministry. The Hispanic congregation that shares our building provided seed money to get the project started and some gardening know-how. LifeSpring provided lumber and construction know-how. Both churches worked together to get the first crops planted. The garden has provided abundant crops of cilantro, leaf lettuce, arugula, chard, and kale, which have been distributed to our neighbors free of charge. Part of the garden includes a fish tank full of tilapia. The fish waste fertilizes the plants and the plants filter the water as it circulates through the system. We look forward to having a fish-fry with our neighborhood in the very near future.

If we receive this grant, we plan to start a second and third system to grow more food, repair the plastic on the greenhouse, and add more ventilation to protect the plants from wilting during the heat of summer. This will enable us to share produce with two more low-income housing developments in our area.

## Mission, Purpose, and Vision of LifeSpring Community Church Ravenswood, WV

Our mission is to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ through outreach without expectation.

Our purpose is to invite and nurture people to live the best life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our vision is to serve as a safe place where people of the community can come as they are for friendship, help, and healing in the name of Jesus Christ.