

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA 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 largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or ministry will be considered per year. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions.

1. General Information:

Organization Name: The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain

Affiliation with ABCUSA: Member church of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts

Address: 633 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Phone 617-524-3992 Federal Tax ID#: 042 263 045

Contact person: Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird email: pastor@firstbaptistjp.org

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- *We are a Christian community of many cultures, one faith!*
- *Unified in our diversity and strengthened by the Holy Spirit,*
- *We gather together in worship, witness and service,*
- *To glorify God and follow the example of Jesus, the Christ's, inclusive love.*
- 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. See attached.

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project \$6200

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5000

6. Your other funding source(s) Church communion offering. Approximately \$1200/year

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) Ashlee Wiest-Laird Date 2-19-2015

Printed Name/Title Rev. Ashlee R. Wiest-Laird, Pastor

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant Application
The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, MA
Grant Round: March 1, 2015

First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain is a small but growing urban, multi-cultural, intergenerational, welcoming and affirming congregation. We are located in the heart of a vibrant, diverse Boston neighborhood. Because of our central locale, many people enter our doors seeking assistance, both spiritual and physical. Despite the fact that our building burned in 2005 our economically varied congregation has continued to provide countless folks in immediate need with grocery cards, bus passes, prescription help, and rent assistance from our Communion Fund. It is never enough, as the increase of requests for help has been apparent since the economy worsened in the last few years. While there is the occasional major crisis, most homeless men and women, low income families, and elders on fixed incomes come asking for a little bit that will help them make it through the month.

For the last two and a half years, we have run a weekly lunch for seniors on Saturdays and a Wednesday night dinner which is often shared with indigent friends. In these programs (and with the food pantry run by our neighboring UU church) we feel we are able to assist with food needs for our community. It has been our experience, however, that it is much more difficult for our neighbors in poverty to have adequate access to transportation. Most do not have cars, and although Boston is known for our public transportation, it has increased in cost over the years. A trip on the subway or bus ranges from \$.80 to \$2.50 depending on the kind of ID one holds. When a person is trying to get from shelter to job, or from social service agency to social service agency, or from home to the hospital, these fares add up.

We would very much like to offer transportation assistance to those in our community who are often forced to make choices between which bills get paid, or between eating and going to the doctor. A monthly bus pass costs \$50. (Disability/Senior pass is \$29). With the help of the Matthew 25 grant, our church would be able to provide transportation for 15-30 people a month over a six month period. Some of the folks who would benefit from this program include Guitta, a 55 year old Lebanese woman with a knee problem, who is here with no funds, to be with her brother as their father is critically ill in the hospital. John would be able to get back and forth to the doctor without worry. Betty could at least ride a warm bus around town and not have to sit all day on a cold bench outside the post office. Tony can bring food to his partner and child who stay in a shelter across town.

Receiving this grant would allow us to use our limited communion funds for the other items that are necessary in life (food, medicine, shelter) while we provide a vital service—access to transport—to our neighbors who struggle day in and day out with the very painful reality of what it means when there is ‘not enough.’

Thank you for your consideration.

**First Baptist Church in JP
Statement of Activities**

	Jan - Dec 15	Budget
Income		
DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS		
Communion Offering	336.05	1,200.00
Grants	0.00	5,000.00
Total Income	336.05	6,200.00
Expense		
MISSION & SOCIAL JUSTICE		
Grocery Gift Cards	300.00	1,000.00
MBTA Monthly Passes	0.00	4,500.00
MBTA Charlie Cards (\$20 each)	0.00	500.00
Prescription Assistance	0.00	100.00
Rent Assistance	0.00	100.00
Total Expense	300.00	6,200.00
Net Income	36.05	0.00