



MCN Church Grants

At its core, the Michigan Catalyst Network seeks to live into its name by being a network of congregations that covenant together to increasingly bring transformation and new life through the proclamation and witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Toward that end, the Network Board and staff exist to connect, encourage, and equip pastors and congregations to see themselves as disciples who make disciples.

One way of living into this call is to assist local congregations in creative ways to equip their own people and reach out to the communities around them. We have developed a Grant Proposal form for you to use.

We intend that these grants are to be used for new initiatives, not to support already existing programs or events. Broadly, the grants will fall into two categories:

- 1) Internally focused Leadership development
- 2) Externally focused outreach or equipping events

Examples of the first might include an outside consultant to work with a consistory on specific areas like discipleship development, strategic planning, church planting, etc. These grants would not be for individuals, but for the larger body as a whole. These requests would be approved and come from the Consistory.

We think that the second category is wide open. They could be equipping events primarily aimed at believers, outreach events for the purpose of drawing new people to Christ, or events that seek to be invitational and engage with the greater community. We want to encourage creativity and risk taking to reach our neighbors with the Gospel. These would be events that people outside of the congregation are invited to.

One criteria we have for these second grants is that at least 2 congregations need to be in partnership to receive a grant. One congregation obviously needs to be part of the MCN, the second could be, but does not have to be, part of the MCN. It might be a church from your Hub, or a neighboring congregation. We are putting this stipulation in place to encourage networking and accountability. An example of an equipping event is Fourth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids hosting a two-day Healing Conference In February. They partnered with River Rock CRC of Rockford. Outreach examples could include Neighbor Block parties, marriage conferences, youth events, etc. Again, these requests would be approved and come from the Consistory.

For both of these categories, the Grant would be given to fund one half of the cost up to \$5,000.

Our goal is to encourage all our churches to be thinking and acting in ways that have them serving as catalysts for spiritual transformation, growth, and renewal to both our existing members, and those whom God is calling us to engage with. Please see the MCN grant proposal form for more informatio