

START-UP ASSISTANCE FOR NEW CONGREGATIONS

PRINT THESE AND READ BEFORE COMPLETING THE FORMS

Purpose

The purpose of this grant is to provide start-up assistance for a new congregation, to include: evangelistic outreach, publicity, equipment, etc. A church may request a one-time grant of up to \$5,000 of start-up assistance. In order to encourage partnership in our church planting efforts, the SBOM expects local partners to financially participate by providing some amount of matching local funds.

Guidelines

1. Requests for assistance are considered from new congregations who are affiliated with a Baptist Association in Alabama, and who are cooperating by contributing to world missions through the Cooperative Program and to associational missions.
2. Before the grant will be approved by the Church Planting Task Force the church must submit a copy of their annual budget, their strategic plan, and a description of how the funds will be used in pursuit of their strategic plan.
3. A pattern of regular giving to both the Cooperative Program and to association missions is expected. This is a tangible indicator of cooperative partnership. Gifts to Missions through the Cooperative Program and to Associational Missions are expected to equal 10% of the church's undesignated receipts each year.
4. The new congregation should be sponsored by an established church in the association, or by the association itself.
5. Each request for assistance must be approved by the new congregation in business session, by the sponsoring entity in business session and must be approved by vote of the Executive Committee or an appropriate body as determined by the association, and signed by the appropriate officers. A letter from the director of missions must be included with the request.

Instructions for Completing the Application Form

- a. You may use either a Microsoft Word form-fill document that allows for completion of the form by computer or you may print the PDF hard-copy form and complete it with pen and ink:

Download these forms at www.alsbom.org/churchplanting.

NOTE: The Microsoft Word form is preferred because it can be easily transmitted via email attachment, but the PDF form is acceptable as well.

- b. The church planter should complete the form and forward it by e-mail or by letter to the appropriate DOM.

- c. If the Microsoft Word form-fill form requires a signature for a particular question, the typed full name of the appropriate church or associational leader is acceptable. Please sign the PDF form normally.
- d. After receipt of the form, the DOM should process it with the associational leadership as outlined above and then forward it my email attachment or postal mail along with a cover letter to the Office of Associational Missions and Church Planting of the State Board of Missions