

# Raleigh Mennonite Church (RMC) – Ministries Fund Policy

The purpose of RMC's Ministries Fund is to provide congregational recognition and financial resources to ministries and programs within RMC. The steps below outline expectations for (I) the formation of new ministries and (II) supplemental funding for existing ministries and commissions.

## I. New Ministries

RMC's Organizational Structure and Church Procedures document outlines the following steps for the formation of new ministries:

"RMC uses the following process for exploration and discernment of possible local ministries in the church. We believe Jesus wants us to be his hands and feet in our community and so we want to find ways we can serve in Christ's name. As you hear of needs in the community and listen for God's leading, we suggest you test these with Servant Leaders. Here is the process:

1. Individual(s) bring idea or vision for ministry to Servant Leaders for discernment.
2. Individual(s) commit themselves to prayer for two weeks before issuing a call to the congregation.
3. Issue a call to the congregation and set up a meeting time for anyone interested to come and brainstorm together.
4. If no interest is shown let the idea die. Continue in prayer with disciple group and if concern does not diminish repeat process.
5. If several people show interest and some defined goals are written up for the ministry, then the congregation will discern whether to commission them for service."

The Ministries Fund Policy defines the requirements entailed in step 5 (above) for both new ministries (this section) and for existing ministries/commissions seeking supplemental funding (section II).

New RMC ministries seeking congregational recognition and funding will meet the following requirements:

1. Form an oversight committee of at least three RMC participants to provide accountability for ministry activities and use of ministry funds.
2. Develop a statement of purpose and goals for the ministry. The purpose and goals will be consistent with RMC's mission and core values.
3. Prepare written budget – a statement of anticipated sources and uses of monies, along with a fund-raising plan (if outside funding is sought).

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4. Share a written proposal (including the three items above) with the congregation in advance of a Church Life Meeting.
5. At a Church Life Meeting, seek congregational discernment for recognition and funding of ministry.
6. Following recognition and funding approval:
  - o Report to the congregation by submitting an update as part of RMC's reporting process in advance of bi-monthly Church Life Meetings.
  - o Ministry oversight committees will be accountable to the Servant Leaders.
  - o Annual funding should come from the General Fund. Direct contributions should not be solicited directly from members of the congregation.
  - o At the termination of the ministry, any unused monies will be transferred to the RMC Ministry Fund.

### **II. Supplemental Funding for Existing Ministries/Commissions**

Existing RMC commissions or ministries seeking funding for special programs will meet the following requirements:

1. Develop a statement of purpose and goals, including the anticipated time (duration) of the program. The purpose and goals will (a) be consistent with RMC's mission and core values and (b) fit the charter of the commission/ministry.
2. Prepare a written funding request – a statement of anticipated sources and uses of monies, along with a fund-raising plan (if outside funding is sought).
3. Share a written proposal (including the three items above: purpose, goals, funding) with the congregation via the Moderator in advance of a Church Life Meeting.
4. At a Church Life Meeting, seek congregational discernment for recognition and funding of program.
5. Following recognition and funding approval:
  - o Report to the congregation by submitting a program update as part of RMC's reporting process in advance of bi-monthly Church Life Meetings.
  - o At the termination of the program, any unused monies will be transferred to the RMC Ministry Fund.