

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION - 2017



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. Because this change was made following the Fall 2016 cycle, recipients of a Spring 2016 grant are eligible to apply.

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 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: The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain

Mailing Address: 633 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Phone: 617-524-3992

Federal Tax ID#: 04-2263-045

Name of Region: TABCOM

Contact person (person completing this form): Reyni Merrell

Email of contact person: churchoffice@firstbaptistjp.org

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?

Communion Fund

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.

Providing MBTA (subway/bus) passes for people in need of assistance for transportation

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?

See attached.

5. Total cost of the project: See attached.

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: 5000

7. List other funding source(s): Church communion fund, Boston Baptist Social Union Grant

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) The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, 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): Reyni Merrell (your name typed here is your electronic signature)

Date: 8/15/2017

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.
- Please review the instructions that follow and initial at the bottom to indicate you have read this information.

Instructions and information for completing the 2017 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?

First Baptist Church in JP NEW
Profit & Loss Detail
January 1 through August 17, 2017

	Name	Memo	Amount
<hr/>			
Income			
	Communion/Holiday Sharing		
	Boston Baptist Social Union		5,600.00
	Individual Contributions		3,048.55
	Total Communion/Holiday Sharing		<hr/> 8,648.55 <hr/>
 Expense			
	Communion Offering Fund		
	Other		607.29
	Stop and Shop Cards		4,750.00
	MBTA Passes		4,225.00
	Total Communion Offering Fund		<hr/> 9,582.29 <hr/>

ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant Application
The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, MA
August 15, 2017

Total cost of the project:

Our Communion Fund project is entirely based on what contributions we receive. We will give away as much as is granted or donated and no funds are ever reallocated. Our attached budget shows the year-to-date income and expense for the Communion Fund.

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.

How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? What impact do you hope to make on the target community?

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, and subway passes from our Communion Fund. We continue be amazed at the response we receive when the passes become available. Passes are distributed to homeless congregation members, residents of the South Street Affordable Housing Complex, and elderly neighbors living off a fixed income, who come asking for a little bit to help them make it through the month.

For the last four 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 \$.85 to \$2.75 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. It is much cheaper per ride if a person has a "Charlie card" or refillable pass (2.25 versus 2.75 per ride on the train and 1.70 versus 2.00 for the bus). The pass we provide is plastic and reusable from month to month, giving the individual an opportunity for less costly rides in the future. We have just switched our program from giving only the \$55 monthly bus pass, to providing or filling someone's past card with a \$30 balance per month which works on the bus and train and won't expire at the end of the month. We will still fill the monthly Link Disability/Senior passes which are also \$30. With the help of the Matthew 25 grant, our church would be able to provide transportation for roughly 25 people every month. Our new system provides us with the opportunity to help more people and use our funds more fairly. Some of the folks who would benefit from this program include Darren, who will be able to visit his wife in the hospital and oversee her care as she heals from surgery. Ana, who can help her uncle get to and from the hospital as well as travel herself as she waits for her disability application. Tony and Cindy who can travel to and from their jobs as they save money and search for an apartment. This program continues to keep the church in contact with those most in need of our assistance.

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.