

## 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: Garden Baptist Church  
Mailing Address: 1725 S. Raceway Road Indianapolis, IN  
Phone: 317-625-7672 Federal Tax ID#: 356069869  
Name of Region: American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis  
Contact person (person completing this form): Rev. Marie Wiese  
Email of contact person: pastmarie@hotmail.com

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?

The Garden Baptist Church Dream Team

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.

To Provide a poverty simulation experience for the 2500 teachers and staff of Wayne Township Schools; to provide an "Understanding People in Poverty" workshop for teachers and staff of Wayne Township Schools. To provide "Santa's Toy Shop" for 25 under-resourced families in Wayne Township. (PLEASE SEE SHEET ATTACHED FOR A MORE SPECIFIC PROJECT OVERVIEW)

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?

We will first create understanding about the realities of poverty: what it is like to live in Indianapolis, IN without enough? This poverty simulation will be a gift to our teachers from Garden Baptist Church. Then, we will give teachers and staff practical tools for effectively working with students and their families that are in poverty. Thirdly, we will shift the paradigm of how a church responds to poverty by providing the community with a project that enables parents to provide their families with Christmas/Holiday support, while maintaining their dignity

and reducing their dependence on others. Families will be encouraged to offer "reciprocity" by helping to work in the Toy Shop. This will engage the under-resourced friend and make them part of the solution! This is different from any approach Garden Baptist has taken in ministry to those in poverty previously.

5. Total cost of the project: \$6450
6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: \$4950
7. List other funding source(s): Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township, and church members of Garden Baptist Church. We will also invite private individuals throughout our area to join us in this effort.
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) Garden Baptist Church, 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): Rev. Marie Wiese (your name typed here is your electronic signature)

Date: September 1, 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](mailto:Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org).
- Please review the instructions that follow and initial at the bottom to indicate you have read this information.

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## **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?**

The mission of Garden Baptist Church is to worship God, grow in fellowship and share Christ's love with the community and the world.

We will begin the journey of living out our mission in three areas;

- Discipleship—we will focus on developing our people spiritually
- Leadership—we will work to develop new leaders
- Connecting with Our Community—we will reach out to people around us with the love of Christ

Our project will focus on Connecting with Our Community

**ESTIMATED BUDGET: CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Rental of space for poverty simulation (in-kind building use from *MSDWT)	\$250
Publicity--*MSDWT (in-kind volunteer labor/social media support)	\$250
Cost to host poverty simulation and poverty workshop	\$1200
Food for poverty simulation and UPIP poverty workshop (est. total attendance: 120)	\$800
Printer ink, paper, paper goods, postage, copy costs, teaching materials	\$250
Toys and gifts for Santa's Toy Shop (serving 25 families)	\$2700
Additional donations-- private donors and church members (food and toys)	<u>\$1000</u>
Total Project:	\$6,450
Total Donations/In-Kind:	\$1,500
<b>Total Grant Request:</b>	<b>\$4,950</b>

\*Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION  
PROJECT OVERVIEW AND DETAILS

Garden Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN  
Connecting with Our Community

Garden Baptist Church is located on the West side of Indianapolis, the 13<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. Our church property sits in the middle of multiple subdivisions that have been built up around the church in the last 20 years. Less than a mile away, sits a local school, at which most of the children in these subdivisions attend. This school, Bridgeport Elementary, is a part of Wayne Township Schools, which has an extremely diverse population, and that is reflected in the demographics around our church. This diversity is evident racially, ethnically and socio-economically. Wayne Township serves children that speak over 70 different languages. 77.7% of the students in Wayne Township qualify for reduced or free lunch. Many of the students who are under-resourced are minority families. We believe that connecting with our community via our school system is a valid avenue of ministry that will address issues of poverty, provide a way to experience the wonderful diversity that exists in our community, and will enable us to provide a tangible expression of God's love to our neighbors.

In early 2016, Garden Baptist Church went through a very difficult church split. As a result, the church was questioning whether it should close its doors. The 17 remaining members came together and through a process of discernment, instruction, healing, and visioning formed the "Dream Team," to determine just what Garden Baptist should do and be. Through the work of this team, Garden has experienced new energy, has begun to re-imagine its ministry and has seen new life emerge in our body. In the last year, we have baptized 5 and welcomed several new people. Our worship attendance is in the high 40's each week. While, we are not out of the woods, we have a new purpose and real desire to be an outwardly focused congregation—and to connect with our community in an authentic and transforming way.

This is where our project comes in: from listening to educators in our congregation and throughout the township, and learning about how the issues of poverty affect our schools and students, we will connect with our community by connecting with our educators, schools, students and student's families. Our pastor, Rev. Marie Wiese, has previously worked with the superintendent of our district, as she was employed with an agency that led poverty simulations and poverty workshops for the Wayne Township teachers and staff. It has been several years, and Dr. Butts, the superintendent, as well as the teachers are very interested in increasing their knowledge about poverty and specifically, how to work with families that are living without enough. This is a perfect opportunity for our church to provide a much needed gift of continuing education and hospitality. Early in 2018, we will host a poverty simulation for Wayne Township Schools, providing this educational opportunity for the 2,500 staff members that work with nearly 16,000 students each day. Following the poverty simulation, we will offer a next step: we will welcome the staff of Wayne Township Schools into our building for a 6-hour workshop that builds on the poverty simulation experience that is called, "Understanding People in Poverty." This workshop will occur mid-year, 2018. The last link of our connecting to our community will be to engage at least 25 under-resourced families of Wayne Township Schools in a "Santa's Toy Shop," at Garden Baptist Church, at Christmastime, 2018.

The philosophy of our "Santa's Toy Shop" is based on Robert Lupton's book, Toxic Charity. He promotes the concept of doing *with*, rather than doing *for*. Traditionally, families in need have been "adopted" by churches and given gifts for the children, mounds of prettily wrapped toys and clothes and all sort of things the parents could not afford. The children are generally ecstatic, the mother's gracious, and the fathers embarrassed. Lupton realized that this method of "helping" in essence emasculated the fathers in front of the world and actually contributed to the cycle of poverty. They were seen as not being able to provide for their families and the children got the message that the 'good stuff' comes from rich people out there and it is free. Lupton asserts that we should, "never do for others what they have the capacity to do themselves." In this light, our "Santa's Toy Shop," will be a "store" where parents can shop for their children at drastically discounted prices. This will allow parents to have dignity in choosing and paying for their children's Christmas gifts.

Through Wayne Township schools, we will ascertain family contacts to invite to our Santa shop. This collaboration will create a partnership with the school in our immediate area and allow for an ongoing relationship of support and mutual benefit. Wayne Township Schools will provide in-kind donations of facility use, publicity and administrative support. Garden Baptist Church will provide additional donations of food and toys/gifts to meet the projected needs of the project. The total cost of the project is \$6450. The total amount of donations/in-kind support is \$1500, leaving our grant request at \$4950. With the renewal that we are experiencing at Garden Baptist, this grant will enable us to increase our presence in the community and address issues of poverty. This is where God is leading and we humbly ask for your consideration in the Matthew 25 grant process, so that we may engage our neighbors, to the glory of God!