



EPC

*A Global Movement of
Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST, E.P.C.

3453 Lakewood Shores Drive
Howell, MI 48843

July 1, 2020

Dear Teaching and Ruling Elders of the Midwest Presbytery,

The Midwest Presbytery (MWP) Church Revitalization Commission has asked me to invite you and your Session leadership to consider the possibility of applying for MWP grant funds for revitalization in your church. The Commission thought it wise to provide some definitions of revitalization from the EPC and the Midwest Presbytery so that you would know what is meant and you would be able to deliberate as a church, session and pastor whether you are ready to take on that challenge.

Church revitalization is one of the EPC's four strategic priorities. For five years it funded the *Go Center* led by Dr. Ken Priddy to facilitate this process. The *Go Center's* focus is to develop missional churches that are led by missional pastors and leaders. Multiple revitalization partners have been added to these initial efforts of the Go Center, but the priority remains the same. We are committed to seeing our churches brought to new life and vitality so that they flourish in the mission to which God has called us.

A commitment to revitalization means that we will live missionally, that we will see who's missing and then find strategies to reach some of these people in particular. Our mission will continue as we take those who are reached and establish them as disciples who in turn become mobilized for mission according to their gifts and passions. A revitalized church is a transformational presence in the world. You are encouraged to talk this over within the Session and with as many as possible in your church. Then, as God leads, fill out an initial application form in which you give the Commission basic information about your church and its commitment to experience new life and vitality through revitalization.

Your church letter of interest for a revitalization grant should be sent to RE Andrew Warner (Assistant Clerk MWP) no later than August 31, 2020. Once the Commission has received and reviewed those letters, some of the projects will be selected for additional consideration. The Commission's goal is to choose several projects and distribute the Oakland Avenue Church grant funding to the selected churches by the end of November 2020.

I am delighted that the Midwest Presbytery approved the motion to use the Oakland Avenue Church Funds (amounting to approximately \$100,000) to promote revitalization. I and the MWP Church Revitalization Commission look forward to finding out which of our churches will pursue this course.

Some guidelines for the Grant Application Interest Letter are attached.

Sincerely yours on behalf of the Oakland Fund for Church Revitalization Commission,

David Brown, Stated Clerk

Commission Members

RE Robert Clark, Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, MI, Chair of Commission

RE Frank Faulkner, First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Kokomo, IN

TE Aaron White, First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston, OH

Administrative Liaison RE Andrew Warner, Assistant Clerk

Midwest Presbytery (MWP) Church Revitalization Commission
GRANT APPLICATION INTEREST LETTER

A Grant Application Interest Letter from the Lead Pastor and Clerk of Session is requested by the Commission to aid in its assessment process. The letter should give the Commission a high-level summary of several things:

1. What has been “the story” of this church that has resulted in its current condition?
2. How have the Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders/Pastors demonstrated their agreement on the congregation’s need for renewal?
3. What has the church done thus far to prepare for revitalization?
4. Briefly, describe how your proposal will accomplish the revitalization you are envisioning.

If available, it would be helpful to include supporting documents that will aid the Commission in the due diligence process, e.g., church vision statements, strategic plans, etc.