

A Report on Participation in the Ministry Share Program for Church Plants and Emerging Churches

This report contains the relevant, current guidance Christian Reformed Home Missions provides all of our church planters and partners as new churches begin. There are several additional dimensions that give perspective to understanding the relationship of church plants to the Ministry Share process in the Christian Reformed Church.

1. The overall, approximate investment in a new church mission in the first six years is from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 plus. The significant factor in this is that 60% to 70% of that investment comes from the new church itself. Essentially, therefore, starting new churches creates new communities generating new and additional resources for the mission of the CRCNA.
2. While it may take some time for a new church plant to participate fully in the Ministry Share process, this period of time does not represent a “loss” of ministry shares. These new communities of faith are primarily made up of new believers and/or believers who are new to the CRCNA – thus representing new giving units. Whatever is contributed, hopefully beginning minimally with a “tithe” of their budget, represents new resources for the CRCNA.
3. The focus of this report does not include a summary of evangelism nor identifies the continuing contribution and involvement of new members within the denomination. In other words, new church plants also bring a variety of additional resources into the denomination, particularly resources for evangelism and outreach. This report focuses on financial contributions through the ministry share system.

The Christian Reformed Home Missions Church Planting and Development leadership team has made the following observation:

“Based upon our experience in CRHM and our conversations with Church Planting Network leaders worldwide, we observe that THE RESOURCES ARE IN THE HARVEST. Churches get planted, generate internal resources that sustain them, and if there are healthy networks (denominational entities), these new churches also give back to the network that funded them, whether it is a denomination or mission agency. This practice has been shown to be tried and true, literally since the time of the Apostles. At the same time, we recognize the reality of high need/low resource communities where churches experience a slower process to develop a resource base that is smaller than in other churches. If we can increase overall ministry share participation enough, we compensate for the exceptions and catalyze a broader, nimbler, and more aggressive and innovative church planting movement within the CRCNA.”

Excerpts from Christian Reformed Home Missions Guidelines

C1-02 Guidelines for Classical Home Missions Committees

C. CHMC Duties

6. Make recommendations to classis annually regarding its budget for outreach ministries, including ministry shares and above-ministry share giving, and to encourage and promote financial support by the churches.

Compiled from:

D1-10: Financial Stewardship for Church Planting and Development Ministry

A. Financial Stewardship Assumptions

4. All ministries are to contribute to denominational ministries as an expression of partnership with the denomination.

B. Financial Stewardship Responsibilities

4. Emerging churches receiving CRHM funding, as an initial expression of denominational partnership, are to budget and contribute a tithe of their tithes and offerings (i.e. 10% of general fund offerings) to denominational ministry share causes, this contribution to be distributed proportionate to the total amounts established by synod.

Notes:

- a. *This "tithe" concept is based on local tithes and offerings for the general fund only (i.e. 10% of general fund offerings), and not on offerings for special causes or grants from CRHM and classes, contributions from supporting churches and the like.*
- b. *It is assumed that this "tithe" contribution will be supplemented by additional offerings of God's people, similar to "above-ministry-share" offerings for approved denominational causes.*
5. Emerging churches receiving CRHM funding are to contribute to classical ministry shares at levels recommended by the respective classes.
6. Upon becoming organized and entering full denominational partnership, churches receiving CRHM funding are to contribute to classical ministry shares as requested by their respective classes, and transition to denominational ministry share contributions as established by synod annually.
7. Any church receiving CRHM funding that fails to contribute to denominational ministry share in keeping with budgeted levels as mutually agreed upon with the Classical Home Missions Committee and/or CRHM may become ineligible for continued CRHM funding.
8. All churches still receiving CRHM funding are to give priority to special contributions for denominational ministries before contributing to non-CRC organizations or other non-CRC sponsored ministries approved by synod (synod 1987).

Compiled from:

E1-01 The Organization of Emerging Churches

C. Criteria for Organization:

3. Financial stewardship: The congregation exercises financial stewardship for the continuing development and effectiveness of its ministry and, prior to organization, provides the classis with financial information that reflects its capacity and commitment toward financial self-support, including personnel expenses and denominational ministry shares

Compiled from:

F1-01 New Work Partnership Funding Request Form

Page 2,

- #5 Does the budget include full classical and denominational ministry shares? (cf. Financial Stewardship. Yes _____ No _____)