

## Thriving Together

A program to support and encourage pastors in times of transition.

Funded by a Lilly Endowment Inc. Grant

### Mentoring Groups Program Grant Application Form

(Submit by May 1 or November 1) \*

1. The *Mentoring Groups Program* overview document (found on the PCR website [www.crcna.org/pcr](http://www.crcna.org/pcr)) has been read by the facilitator and the treasurer.

- Read this before you complete the application form.

April 15, 2019

Date facilitator read overview document

April 9, 2019

Date treasurer read overview document

2. Proposed mentoring group.

- a. Name of group.

- Your choice of descriptive word or phrase.

Finishing Strong

- b. Group member's information.

- Ordinarily, group members will be active, CRC, ordained, parish pastors. Groups will have 4 to 6 members + the facilitator. Please list names in alphabetical order - by first name. **Bold name of facilitator.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>CITY,STATE/PROV.</u>	<u>CLASSIS</u>
Joon Lee	Faith Fellowship CRC	Wingate, Florida	Palm
Jim Smit	First CRC	Crosby, New York	Northeast
<b>Rebecca Flint</b>	<b>SunShine Church</b>	<b>Oakwood, Montana</b>	<b>Prairie</b>
Sharon Stevens	Kentwood CRC	Kentwood, Ohio	Middleland
Simon Van Horst	Joy CRC	Goss, Ontario	Fruitland

- c. Ministry transition to be explored.

- Bold correct one.

Exploring Transition

Second Call

**Later Career**

- d. What does *Thriving Together* mean to you as a group?

Thriving together is a sense of wellbeing as we journey through a significant season in life and ministry. While the challenges, wonderings, decisions to be made, and desire to be obedient to our calling and God can be trying at times, we're committed to exploring this transition in the most healthy way possible so that we, and our families, are able to thrive—both now and in the years to come.

### 3. The group's plan.

- a. In a few sentences, share the group's overall plan.

We plan to gather in a variety of ways (retreats, video conferences, Facebook, conference) to dig deeply into what a pastor's later career in ministry looks like. The group members that have experience in later career will provide valuable mentoring to those with less experience. Since we don't "do ministry" alone, we'll have our spouses join us—for those who are married. Focusing on our wellbeing throughout our time together will be important.

- b. Why are you taking this approach?

We want to learn from those who are several steps ahead of us and are therefore able to mentor those of us who are new to this ministry stage. We all want to flourish in the later years of parish ministry. We desire to continue to give our best to our work while ensuring our wellbeing. Being able to spend time together, in one location, is necessary for developing strong relationships. It's through these relationships that the good and the bad can be safely shared and explored.

There's much wisdom to be gleaned from books, conferences, and each other. Having a variety of learning sources will enrich our experience.

Having our spouses join us at the retreat is of the utmost importance as they're on this journey with us.

- c. What is the yearlong meeting schedule and nature of group activities?

- *Include dates - month only is fine.*
- *Groups are required to meet a minimum of eight times: four times face-to-face. We encourage you to have your first meeting a face-to-face meeting. The first retreat (see i below) should be very early in your year together. Retreats and attending a continuing education event are considered face-to-face meetings.*

August: Retreat in Ontario (3 days/2 nights)

- Getting to know each other.
- Spouses will attend.
- Discuss book.
- Do something fun.

September: Video conference call

- Each call will last about 2 hours and will follow a similar pattern:
  - Sharing of life and ministry.
  - Check-in on wellbeing.
  - Prayer.
  - Time of learning – created by facilitator.

October: Video conference call

- November: Face-to- face meeting in Ohio (2 days/2 nights)
- The format will be similar to what happens at the monthly video conference calls but will be much more in-depth.
  - Do something fun.
- December: Video conference call
- January: Video conference call
- February: Video conference call
- March: *Finishing Well Conference* in Florida (3 days/2 nights)
- Attend 1 ½ day conference
  - Spend ½ day after conference connecting, reflecting on conference, etc.
- April: Video conference call
- May: Video conference call
- June: Video conference call
- July: Face-to-face meeting in Montana (2 days/2 nights)
- The format will be similar to what happens at the monthly video conference calls but will be much more in-depth.
  - Do something fun.
  - Reflect on what we've learned and where we are today.
  - Bring the group to a "close".

Throughout the year: check in via phone calls, emails, and a Facebook group as needed/desired.

- d. How will the group's activities foster wellbeing in its members as they explore their ministry transition?
- Gathering together will *develop and nurture relationships*.
  - Checking in regularly with each other will result in *care and support*.
  - Including spouses at the retreat will *strengthen bonds*.
  - Sharing learning and experiences will *increase wisdom*.
  - Praying with, and for, each other will bring *peace and comfort*.
  - Attending a conference and reading books will *enhance learning*.
  - Have fun, relaxing, and getting away will *nourish body, mind, and soul*.
- e. List the *group's* goals? Include at least one spiritual formation goal.
- To form close relationships within the group.
  - To explore the "later career" transition from a variety of angles.
  - To make personal wellbeing a priority.
  - To leave the group experience with greater clarity. (This will mean something different for each member.)
  - To consistently seek God in a number of ways as we explore the later career transition and what I means for each of us.

- f. When will the group members establish *individual* goals for personal development and wellbeing?  
Each group member will set goals for personal development and wellbeing prior to the initial retreat in August.
- g. How will the group members hold one another accountable for both personal and group goals?  
We'll check in on both our personal and group goals at the four face-to-face gatherings as well as along the way—as we think of it.
- h. Which continuing education event will be attended?
- *Attending an event is optional but encouraged.*
  - *If attending an event, provide information on it. Include website whenever possible.*
  - *Ordinarily, funds requested for a continuing education event will account for 50% or less of the total amount requested. Exceptions will be considered. If an exception is requested, please state the rationale as to why the costs are higher than 50% of the budget.*

We'll be attending the *Finishing Well Conference* in Florida March 11 – 12, 2020.

[www.finishngwell.com](http://www.finishngwell.com)

How will this event benefit the group members?

- Able to learn from experts in the field.
  - Gathering with others who are in the same transition.
  - Time away as a group has all kinds of benefits.
  - Being in Florida at the end of winter has benefits. Especially for our wellbeing. 😊
- i. Describe the retreat the group will experience.
- *Groups are required to retreat together for a minimum of 2 days and 2 nights. Spouses, if group members are married, are encouraged to participate in the retreat.*

Someone in Simon's congregation has a summer home in Ontario that we can use at no charge. At the retreat we'll:

- get to know each other.
- have our spouses with us—if they're able.
- discuss a book. (title to be determined)
- begin our exploration of the "later career" transition.
- do something fun. (to be determined)

We'll retreat for 3 days and 2 nights—which will give us significant time away from our daily routines.

How will this event benefit the group members?

- Relationships will be formed/deepened.
- Wellbeing will be enhanced in a number of ways.
- Learning will take place.
- Renewal and refreshment will bless all.

How will this event benefit the spouses - if they're participating?

In addition to the points directly above, our spouses will be able to share the retreat experience and the launching of this mentoring group. This will allow them to have a deeper understanding of the group and the experience/learnings that their spouse will engage in. This will benefit the husband/wife relationship as together we explore the later career transition.

#### 4. The budget.

Maximum grant amount is \$10,000 USD.

- Refer to the overview document prior to completing the budget so you're aware of what is, and isn't, fundable.
- The facilitator's stipend (\$2,500) is not part of the grant request. This will be paid by PCR.
- Create a budget, with sufficient detail, that indicates how the requested funds will be used.

*For example: Retreat: \$700 - isn't enough detail.*

*Retreat: \$250 for retreat center rental; \$200 for speaker; \$150 for food; \$50 for books; \$50 for mileage - is enough detail.*

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Retreat (ON) (3 days/2 nights)</b>	
Travel: \$250 x 7 flights & \$150 x 2 (mileage for 2 people)	\$1,900
Lodging: donated	\$0
Food: \$220 in groceries and \$40 x 9 people - for a dinner out	\$580
Books: \$20 x 5 pastors	\$100
Fun Activity: \$50 x 9 people	\$450
Pulpit Supply: \$150 x 5 pastors	\$750
<b>Face-to-Face Meeting (OH) (2 days/2 nights)</b>	
Travel: \$250 x 4 flights & \$100 x 1 (mileage for 1 pastor)	\$1,100
Lodging: rent a house @ \$200 x 2 nights	\$400
Food: \$175 in groceries and \$40 x 5 pastors – for a dinner out	\$335
Fun Activity: will do something that's free	\$0
<b>Conference (FL) (3 days/2 nights)</b>	
Registration Fee: \$320 x 5 pastors	\$1,600
This includes registration, lodging (in a college dorm), and meals.	
Travel: \$250 x 4 flights & \$100 x 1 (mileage for 1 pastor)	\$1,100
<b>Face-to-Face Meeting (MO) (2 days/2 nights)</b>	
Travel: \$250 x 4 flights & \$100 x 1 (mileage for 1 pastor)	\$1,100
Lodging: rent a house @ \$200 x 2 nights	\$400
Food: \$175 in groceries and \$40 x 5 pastors – for a dinner out	\$735
Fun Activity: \$50 x 5 people	\$450
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>

What is the total cost for the group's activities? \$11,000

**What is the amount requested from PCR? \$10,000**

*Maximum grant amount is \$10,000 USD.*

*The grant is not to be used to cover personal expenses, the purchase of any equipment, or any administrative expenses associated with this mentoring group.*

*The grant period is one year - any 12-month period the group chooses. A mentoring group may only receive one grant between January 2019 and December 2024.*

## **5. The group facilitator.**

*(The group facilitator must be a CRC pastor.)*

a. Name Rebecca Flint  
Position Senior Pastor  
Preferred email address [pastorrebecca@abd.xxx](mailto:pastorrebecca@abd.xxx)

b. Institution name SunShine Church  
Address 534 Lindsay St.  
Oakwood, MO 12345  
Phone 111-232-0099  
Email [sunshine@abd.xxx](mailto:sunshine@abd.xxx)

c. What experience has the facilitator had in this particular transition?

*(Not required but is an asset.)*

Rebecca has been in ministry for 25 years. She's currently serving her third, and final, church where's she's been for eight years. Rebecca is planning to retire from ministry in two years. She's been exploring the later career transition for several years and wants to share what's she's learned with others.

## **6. The group treasurer.**

*(The facilitator may not be the treasurer.)*

a. Name Jim Smit  
Position Co-pastor  
Preferred email address [smitj@abd.xxx](mailto:smitj@abd.xxx)

b. Institution name	First CRC
Address	534 Lindsay St. Crosby, NY 12345
Phone	101-434-1919
Email	<a href="mailto:firstcrc@abd.xxx">firstcrc@abd.xxx</a>

*When completed send to:*  
Lis Van Harten – PCR Co-director  
[Ivanharten@crcna.org](mailto:Ivanharten@crcna.org)

***We work with electronic documents. Please send us your proposal as a Word or Google document - not a PDF.***

**\* Receipt of proposal will be acknowledged with an email to the facilitator. If he/she doesn't receive acknowledgement within two days, please call our office. (1-877-279-9994 X2805 – toll free)**

***Pastor Church Resources will send notice to applicants by June 1 and December 1 concerning grants awarded.***