

This is a sample peer learning proposal for the benefit of those interested in applying for a grant. The answers to the questions should not be taken as ideals so much as ideas--examples of what is possible. We continue to encourage creative thinking. The names, titles, and addresses given here are fictitious.

PEER LEARNING PROGRAM

A program to support and encourage pastors and pastors' spouses
 Funded by CRCNA Ministry Shares

**Peer Learning Grant Application Form
 (Submit by May 1 or November 1) ****

1. Please describe your proposed peer learning group

- a. Name of group
 (Your choice of descriptive word or phrase.)

The Encouragers

- b. Names and position/location of all pastors in group.
 (Ordinarily, the majority of the group members will be CRC pastors and groups are to be made up of 4-8 members.)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>CITY,STATE/PROV.</u>	<u>CLASSIS</u>
Joon Lee	pastor	Faith Fellowship CRC	Wingate, Mississippi	Southwest
Rick Miller	pastor	Calvary CRC	Saraland, Alabama	Southwest
Jim Smit	pastor	First CRC	Crosby, Mississippi	Southwest
Sharon Stevens	pastor	Kentwood CRC	Kentwood, Louisiana	Southwest
Harold Vander Veen	pastor	Jonesville Church	Jonesville, Louisiana	Southwest
Simon Van Horst	pastor	Joy CRC	Goss, Mississippi	Southwest

- c. Factor(s) that bring the group together

We are all serving smaller, struggling churches. We have a desire to meet together to encourage, support and build one another up. We are looking for an opportunity to attend a conference that focuses on churches of our size (under 100 members).

- d. What "pastoral excellence" means to you

To be all that God has intended us to be. This includes growing in our areas of giftedness as well as improving in the areas of weakness. We know that we can't excel in everything pastors are called to do. Yet it is our desire to experience growth in all aspects of our lives as pastors. We will always have room for growth and in this way we are seeking pastoral excellence.

- e. State in one sentence the focus of your group

"Ministry in Smaller Churches"

2. Describe the group's plan for peer learning

a. How your group went about developing this proposal

After reading a posting in the pastors' e-newsletter, a conversation was started via email between Harold and Jim. An invitation was sent out to see if other pastors would be interested in forming a peer learning group. Once the group was established we met to discuss the proposal. The basics for the proposal were decided upon as a group at that time. We continued our planning via phone and email. All members were a part of the development of the final proposal.

b. When, and how, your group members will establish individual goals for personal development and ministry effectiveness

Discussion of individual goals began at our initial proposal planning meeting. We each listed areas we would like to personally grow in. These were shared with the group. Each member will bring to our first peer learning group meeting a final list of their individual goals.

c. Meeting schedule and nature of group activities

(Note that groups are required to meet a minimum of four times but are encouraged to meet more often if possible.)

We plan to meet every six weeks for 4 hours, with our spouses whenever possible. During this time we will have a time of sharing of our joys and challenges in our local parishes. We will discuss a chapter from the book *The Life of the Smaller Church* by Henry Walker. We will discuss our individual goals and if they are being fulfilled. We will encourage and build each other up. We will work through the preparatory material for the conference we plan to attend. After the conference, our regular meetings will include a discussion of principles learned at the conference. To wrap up our time together we will have dinner out with our spouses.

d. Will the group be attending a continuing education (CE) event together OR having a retreat with/without a speaker? If attending a CE event/bringing in a speaker, please provide background information on the event and/or speaker. Include websites whenever possible.

Note:

- Attending a regional (within reasonable driving distance) continuing education event/retreat is encouraged. Ordinarily, attendance at such events will be given funding priority over other events.
- Ordinarily, the funds requested for a continuing education event/retreat 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.

Yes. We will be attending a conference entitled "*Numbers Aren't Everything - how to have a healthy ministry in a smaller church*". This conference will be held in Goss, Mississippi on March 10-12, 2020. Unity Christian Ministries has been offering this conference since 2002. Unity is a non-denominational ministry that focuses on healthy churches. Their offices are located in Hope, TN. Visit their website for more detailed information about the ministry and the conference itself. www.unitychristianministries.org

What is the total cost for the group's activities? \$3,850 (US)

What is the amount requested? \$3,000

Maximum grant amount is \$3,000.

How much are the pastors/churches contributing? \$850

(Please indicate whether the pastors'/churches' contribution is in dollars--U.S. or Canadian--or in-kind resources. If the latter, please list them. Note: These contributions are not required, but assist in understanding the capacity for sustainability.)

* The grant is not to be used to cover personal expenses, to cover the purchase of any equipment, to compensate the coordinator or the treasurer for their work related to the peer learning group, or any other administrative expenses associated with this peer group.

The grant period is one year. Ordinarily, applications for a new/1st time peer group will be given priority over peer groups seeking renewal. Peer groups may receive a maximum of two grants in a 5-year period.

4. Is this a first request by your group for grant funds? yes

If no, are there ways in which this group can be sustained over time, using local resources? Please explain.

5. Identify the group coordinator

(The group coordinator must be a CRC pastor.)

a. Name and position

Rev. Jim Smit – pastor of First CRC
Crosby, Mississippi

b. Institution name, address, phone, email

First CRC
534 Lindsay St.
Crosby, MS 12345
123-546-1212 – phone
firstcrc@abd.xxx

c. Home address, phone, email

7698 Rolling Hills Ln
Crosby, MS 12345
123-345-4976 – phone
smitj@abd.xxx

6. Identify the group treasurer

(The group treasurer may not be the same person as the group coordinator.)

a. Name and position

Rev. Sharon Stevens – pastor of Kentwood CRC

b. Institution name, address, phone, fax, email

Kentwood CRC
9834 Kent Ave.
Kentwood, LA 98765
234-534-1111 – phone
kentwoodcrc@grt.xxx

c. Home address, phone, email

9832 Kent Ave.
Kentwood, LA 98765
234-534-7744 – phone
sharonst@grt.xxx

7. The *Peer Learning Grant* overview document (found on the SPE website www.crcna.org/pcr) has been read by the group coordinator and the treasurer.

April 25, 2019

Date coordinator read overview document

April 10, 2019

Date treasurer read overview document

When completed send to:

lvanharten@crcna.org

or

Lis Van Harten

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407 USA

We prefer to work with electronic forms whenever possible. Thank You.

**** Receipt of proposal will be acknowledged with an email to the coordinator. If you don't receive acknowledgement within 24 hours, please call our office. (1-877-279-9994 X0805 – toll free)**

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