

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 Grant Application Form

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

#### 1. Please describe your proposed peer learning group

- a. Name of group
  - The Encouragers
- b. Group members' information

<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
Linda Miller	pastor	Calvary CRC	Saraland, Arkansas	Southwest
Jim Smit	pastor	First CRC	Crosby, Mississippi	Southwest
Sharon Stevens	pastor	Kentwood CRC	Kentwood, Louisiana	Southwest
Bob VanStep	pastor	Jonesville Church	Jonesville, Louisiana	Southwest
Simon Horst	pastor	Joy CRC	Goss, Mississippi	Southwest

#### 2. The Plan

- a. In a few sentences, share the group's overall plan and topic of focus.

We belong to the same classis, serve smaller congregations, and are eager to enrich our ministry. Some think that smaller congregations are less work, less complex, and easier than larger ones but this isn't always true. We want to learn from each other and explore new ideas so that we're better able to minister to our members.

Ministry can be lonely. Getting together will help us with selfcare, keep us from becoming lone ranger pastors, and allow us to kick back and just be "us". We need this!

- b. List 3 - 5 desired outcomes
  - A strong support group that prays for, refreshes, and encourages each other.
  - New ideas for ministry in smaller churches.
  - Improved selfcare.
  - Renewed commitment to our calling.
- c. Meeting schedule and nature of group activities
  - Starting in June, we'll meet every six weeks for 4 hours. Our last meeting will take place in late May.
  - We'll share our joys and challenges in our churches/personal lives, pray for one another, and eat together.
  - We'll read and discuss three books. Options include:
    - *The Life of the Smaller Church* by Henry Walker
    - *The Gift of Community* by Jose Gracia
    - *Around the Table* by Gloria Hutting

- *For Us All* by Nate Ellis
- *Just a Minute...* by Ashley Jung
- We'll attend the *Church Rejoice Conference* in Goss, Mississippi next March. *Unity Yes! Christian Ministries* has been offering this conference since 2002. Unity is a non-denominational ministry that focuses on healthy churches. [www.unityyes!christianministries.org](http://www.unityyes!christianministries.org)
- At our final gathering, we'll have dinner with our spouses.

### 3. Budget \*

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Peer Group</b>	<b>PCR</b>
<b>Meetings:</b>			
<i>Mileage: \$200 x 7 meetings</i>	\$1,400	\$350	\$1,050
<i>Lunch: \$15 x 7 pastors x 7 meetings</i>	\$735	\$185	\$550
<i>Books: \$15 x 3 books x 7 pastors</i>	\$315	\$315	
<b>Conference:</b>			
<i>Registration Fee: \$150 x 7 pastors</i>	\$1,050		\$1,050
This includes registration fees, lodging (in a college dorm), and 2 meals a day. We will pay for any meals that are not included in the conference fees.			
<b>End of Year Dinner:</b>			
\$25 x 14 people	\$350		\$350
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$3,850</b>	<b>\$850</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

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 USD.*

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

### 5. Identify the group coordinator

(The group coordinator must be a CRC pastor.)

Name and position Rev. Jim Smit – pastor of First CRC

Preferred phone # 123-345-4976

Preferred email [smitj@abd.xxx](mailto:smitj@abd.xxx)

Church name First CRC

Church address 534 Lindsay St.  
Crosby, MS 12345

**6. Identify the group treasurer**

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

Name and position	Rev. Sharon Stevens – pastor of Kentwood CRC
Preferred phone #	234-534-7744
Preferred email	<a href="mailto:sharonst@grt.xxx">sharonst@grt.xxx</a>
Church name	Kentwood CRC
Church address	9834 Kent Ave. Kentwood, LA 98765