



East Midland Baptist Association

Mission Partnership Grant (MPaG)

P1: Guidelines and Process for Pioneering Ministries

The Mission Partnership Grant is provided to help a Baptist Church, pioneering ministry or ecumenical partnership including Baptists, to engage effectively in mission by supporting a minister, minister in training, or other worker. The main focus for this person will be to lead the pioneer ministry forward in mission. Their priority must be helping the ministry to reach out to their local community in whatever way is most appropriate in their context.

At the heart of this mission partnership grants is a genuine partnership between each grant recipient and the EMBA, mainly expressed through a Mission Accompanier (MA) who will journey with the ministry throughout the grant period.

EMBA Mission Partnership Grants in pioneering contexts may be offered for missional initiatives which extend the reach of the Gospel beyond the boundaries of the existing church; reaching into new communities or cultures. Priority will be given to those initiatives which seek to establish a community of discipleship that is authentic, missional, and sustainable (including financial sustainability).

Funding applications will be considered that demonstrate a variety of the following:

Intentionally Missional:

- An intention to discover and express new attitudes, new actions and new habits in mission.
- An intention to reach a wider variety of people and sub-cultures than are presently reached by existing churches in the East Midlands, especially amongst poor and vulnerable communities. In other words, they will break new ground.

Intentionally Relational:

- An intention to pioneer with an openness to and respect for the wider Christian community.
- An acceptance of a trusted freedom whilst remaining demonstrably accountable.

Intentionally Creative:

- A willingness to take calculated creative risks in establishing new communities.
- A commitment to develop a community of disciples who seek to demonstrate Baptist values as they live under Christ's rule.

Grants awarded for pioneering ministries can be used for:

- **Staffing** – early funding of posts usually in conjunction with other funding streams e.g. other organisations or employment.
- **Resources** – that may enable early development (e.g. rental of space, purchase of equipment, etc.).
- **Pilot projects** – that may lead to growth in understanding and development of a full ministry.
- **Training** – development of budding pioneers and new teams involved in mission initiatives.
- **Networking** – allowing pioneers to meet for mutual development and support.

The use of the grant money is to be determined by the management group and not prescribed by the Grants Group – i.e. the money may be used for NI/pension contributions, housing costs, pioneer expenses etc. However, all applications should include a budget specifying how the grant money would be spent.

Please note, the grant would be paid in twelve equal monthly installments throughout the year. If additional funding is required for set-up/fabric costs then a Mission Project Grant can also be applied for, up to a maximum of £3,000.

Please note, a Mission Project Grant (MPG) can usually only be applied for once every five years. A Mission Project Grant application would be considered, subject to a Mission Partnership Grant being agreed.

Also of note is that a Mission Partnership Grant will only be paid for those months where a ministry has a worker in post.

If after a grant has been agreed, a pioneer ministry has not taken up the grant within a period of three years, having not called a worker, then a review will be undertaken, and the grant may be withdrawn.

Expectations of grant supported pioneer ministries

Whilst we do not want to be legalistic, we would ask that MPaG funded pioneer projects express their partnership by participating in wider Baptist family life

- Grants are dependent on pioneering ministries developing and pursuing a missional plan agreed with and supported by an Association-appointed Mission Accompanier (MA).
- Grant funded ministries are expected to send representatives to attend EMBA Gatherings and the minister/missional lead, to attend the annual EMBA Ministers' Conference (*if funding is an issue, please speak to your Regional Minister*).
- The EMBA Grants Group strongly recommend that ministries in receipt of a grant look to give no more than 15% of their income to other causes (5% HM, 5% BMS, 5% other); any surplus income going towards a ministry reducing their reliance on a grant and becoming self-funding at the end of the grant period. (The logic of this guidance is to avoid a situation where the wider Baptist family is effectively supporting the mission causes chosen by a pioneering ministry, when these finances could be used to support its own worker and mission.)
- **Who makes the decisions on the awarding of grants?**

Decisions on Mission Partnership Grant applications are made by the EMBA Grants Group. Becky Nicholls (EMBA Admin Lead) currently manages the administration of all Association Grants.

General Principles and Guidance

The grant process is underpinned by a commitment between the pioneering ministry and the Association to listen to one another, to support each other and to be mutually open to challenge as the need for grant support is explored. It is hoped that this process will provide space for the ministry and the Association to listen to God together and hear His voice. This partnership is vital to ensure that Baptist family funds are used effectively to support Kingdom work with a missional focus, and to enable the gospel to be shared with those who have not yet heard it.

There are key points and questions which will be considered when a grant decision is made. These include:

- Will the grant enable the ministry to grow and be more effective in mission?
- Is the management group/trustees fully committed to supporting the missional plans long term?
- Does the application demonstrate financial sustainability long term with a reducing grant?
- Evidence of prayer, leadership and community focus.
- A clear and realistic mission plan.
- Evidence of activity or relationships which reach out to the community.
- An openness to change.
- A willingness to be guided by the Association Team and to accept the help and guidance of an Association appointed Mission Accompanier.

Grant Application Process

A pioneering ministry wishing to apply for a Mission Partnership Grant must first make contact with a Regional Minister for an initial discussion.

In some circumstances potential pioneers might also be invited to attend a formal interview with the Association and references may be required.

The Regional Minister (RM) will then arrange for Becky to email an application pack to the pioneer ministry. Exact requirements will be detailed in the application pack sent to the ministry, but the following action will be needed:

The ministry will complete the required forms and provide the necessary supporting documents. These will need to be emailed to Becky Nicholls (EMBA Admin Lead) ahead of the deadline provided.

Upon receiving a complete application, Becky will then notify the appropriate Regional Minister who will review the application paperwork and if they are happy to commend the ministry for a grant, then a Mission Accompanier (MA) will be appointed to journey with the pioneering ministry over either a five- or ten-year grant term.

The MA will receive a copy of the application paperwork and will then arrange an initial visit to the pioneering ministry to understand and help it develop its mission strategy. In doing so, the MA will be guided by the Hollinghurst questions.

Following the visit, the MA will complete a Pioneer Report Form and send this to Becky.

Upon receipt of the above, Becky will action the RM writing a commendation.

All of the application paperwork then goes to the October Grants Group who will review the applications received and together discern the level of grant to be awarded..

Following the Grants Group meeting, all ministries will be notified by email of the grant awarded for the following year.

Additional Notes

- EMBA cannot guarantee funding for more than one year at a time, even if the intention is for longer term funding.
- Where the pioneering is a 'traditional' church plant instigated by an existing Baptist church or churches, grants would normally be expected to be match-funded by the churches involved.
- The EMBA Regional Team and Mission Accompanier will work with the pioneer worker and their management group to help assess the development and sustainability of the ministry throughout the grant period.
- If a church or a member of the church has been in receipt of one of the three EMBA Partnership Grants available, then that church or any member of the church would not normally be able to apply for a further Partnership Grant for a period of three years from the end of the previous grant.

What happens after a grant is awarded?

The ministry will continue to receive encouragement, guidance and support from the EMBA Regional Team and Mission Accompanier.

In subsequent years of a grant, new/updated financial information will be requested by the Association.

The continuing grant is conditional on the ministry's active co-operation with the Mission Accompanier who, ideally, will work with the pioneering ministry throughout the grant period. The MA will visit at least yearly to encourage and reflect with the pioneer (team) to help sharpen its plans. The MA will report once a year to the Grants Group.

The MA's yearly report will address:

- Progress made towards goals
- Changes to the plan

- Encouragements to celebrate
- Recommendations to the ministry and/or EMBA, including recommendation re ongoing funding.

If you have any queries / questions relating to the grant process, please contact your Regional Minister or Becky Nicholls (EMBA Admin Lead):

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