

Ministry Initiative Grant Applications

Suggested Church Interview Question

After the Association Mission Commission has received an analyzed grant application form from churches seeking assistance, they will need to meet with representatives of the church for an interview.

The purpose of this meeting is three-fold:

1. To give opportunity for representatives of the church to share its ministry vision and its need for assistances, or if reapplying, to give opportunity to share updates and progress in the ministry plan.
2. To give opportunity for the Mission Commission to comment on and ask questions about the grant application form from the church.
3. To give the Mission Commission a broader, more knowledgeable basis from which to make the recommendation to the Atlantic Baptist Mission Board.

It is important for the Mission Commissions to recognize that their task in reviewing applications and interviewing church representatives is to **make judgments** about those situations and to hold the churches **accountable for their requests**, all in the spirit of **encouraging** them in their ministries. The judgment and determination that must be made is three-fold:

- Whether or not this application falls within ABMB policies
- Whether or not this situation warrants support for its ministry and if so
- What amount would be appropriate in light of the need

One determination is based on the ABMB policy, the next is based on the quality and direction of the church's ministry, and the third is based on the financial realities. All three are interrelated, not independent of one another.

On the Following page are suggested questions for the use by the Mission Commission in the interview. They will be augmented by questions/comments you would have from your analysis of the application form.

Interview Questions

- Share with us the church's ministry over the past year – blessings, challenges, needs.
- Tell us about your worship services, Sunday School, youth ministry, etc. (whatever would be appropriate for this church). How many attend, what is the flavor of these times, etc.?
- How would you describe the climate, atmosphere, or attitude of your church?
- How does the community regard your church? What reputation do you have in the community?
- What is the potential for church growth in your community?
- What is the church presently doing to reach out into the community to share the love of Christ and the gospel of Christ?
- What is your church's vision for the coming year? Two years?
- What are your church's goals/strategies/plans to see that vision realized?
- Is there any conflict in your church at present? Describe what form it is taking.
- What has your church set as a target date for being financially self-sufficient and no longer needing ABMB assistance?
- What back-up plan do you have if the ABMB is not able to provide a grant this year? (or ask, "If no grant monies were available, what would you do?")
- What is the absolute minimum that the church needs to accomplish its ministry this year?
- Besides prayer and financial support, is there any additional way that the Association can assist your church at this point?