

CLASSIS BCNW FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Classis ROP, Appendix C

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I. PREAMBLE

Classis BCNW will provide three types of funding:

1. Continuous Funding
2. Grant Funding
3. Incrementally Decreasing Funding

Classis BCNW has developed these three types of ministry funding because our current way of funding classical ministries is neither sustainable long-term, nor the best means of stewarding the resources of classis in today's ministry context. Support for classis ministries is plateauing, if not decreasing.

By pursuing these three types of ministry funding we are being proactive in:

- Finding ways to fund ministries in a sustainable way into the future.
- Responding to the Holy Spirit's prompts to birth new ministries from within the churches in our classis.
- Ensuring ministry share support is available to initiate and assist new ministry opportunities.

Classis BCNW wants to continue partnering with new and existing ministries with varying levels of financial support as well as with the encouragement to creatively and prayerfully seek out new, multiple streams of funding. We recognize that not all supported ministries will have the ability to become self-supporting, therefore expanding support beyond classical ministry shares, and even beyond our denominational constituency, provides alternate sources of revenue, volunteers, and prayer support.

The funding models suggested below provide for regular cycles of review, including mutual conversations about the needs, opportunities, joys, and challenges of each supported ministry. The goal is not necessarily to eliminate classical funding, but to gradually decrease levels of classical funding in order to increase available support for new work.

II. TYPES OF FUNDING

The principles of each funding type are not set in stone. If God births something new within a ministry supported by classis, their funding allotment is open to review, subject to classis funds being available. We

trust that these types of funding will be part of a discernment process led by the Holy Spirit as each ministry seeks to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and seek first God's kingdom.

A. Continuous Funding

1. **Ministries:** Denominationally mandated ministries (as per synodical or Church Order requirement) are required to submit a Partnership Request to the Classical Ministries Committee (CMC). See III., below, for Guidelines for Partnership Requests.
2. **Funding:** Funding is available on a three-year basis, and must be within the capacity of classis to pay.
3. **Review:** After three years each ministry will be asked to submit a new Partnership Request. At that point, a review will take place in consultation with the ministry. That review will include outside input, assessment of alignment with the Mission and Values of Classis BCNW, measurable goals, and a funding recommendation.

B. Grant Funding

1. **Ministries:** New ministries initiated through a local church or partnering churches, and current classis ministries, may request Grant Funding by submitting a Partnership Request to the Classical Ministries Committee (see III., below, for Guidelines for Partnership Requests).
2. **Funding:**
 - a. Funding will be given as a fixed sum each year for three years.
 - b. There is no cap on the number of grants a ministry can receive, but the funding is subject to review every three years. It is anticipated that the ministry will become self-supporting at some point.
 - c. Ordinarily, classical Grant Funding will never be 100% of a ministry's budget.
 - d. We encourage ministries to look for the support of churches within classis and also outside support (e.g. private, ecumenical, community, foundations, etc.) in order to create more room for other ministries to access classical assistance.
3. **Review:** After three years each ministry will be asked to submit a new Partnership Request. At that point, a review will take place in consultation with the ministry. That review will include outside input, assessment of alignment with the Mission and Values of Classis BCNW, measurable goals, and a funding recommendation.

C. Incrementally Decreasing Funding

1. **Ministries:** New ministries initiated through a local church or partnering churches, and current classis ministries, may request Incrementally Decreasing Funding by submitting a Partnership Request to the Classical Ministries Committee (see III., below, for Guidelines for Partnership Requests).
2. **Funding:**
 - a. Funding will decrease annually each year for three years.
 - b. There is no cap on the number of years a ministry can receive Incrementally Decreasing Funding, but the funding is subject to review every three years, and each year the funding must continue to decrease. This funding is primarily seen as a way to "kick-start" a new ministry. It is anticipated, then, that classis funding will come to an end at some point.

- c. Ordinarily, classical Incrementally Decreasing funding will never begin at 100% of a ministry's budget.
 - d. We encourage ministries to look for the support of churches within classis and also outside support (e.g. private, ecumenical, community, foundations, etc.) in order to create more room for other ministries to access classical assistance.
3. **Review:** After three years each ministry will be asked to submit a new Partnership Request. At that point, a review will take place in consultation with the ministry. That review will include outside input, assessment of alignment with the Mission and Values of Classis BCNW, measurable goals, and a funding recommendation.

III. GUIDELINES FOR CLASSICAL MINISTRY SHARE PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

As each classically supported ministry develops its annual budget, a key component is reviewing projected income and expenses. The Partnership Request is applicable:

- a. When a new ministry requests that classis partner with them through prayer and financial support.
- b. Once every 3 years when each supported ministry reviews its previous level of classis financial support and requests new financial support.

After receiving the Partnership Request, the Classical Ministries Committee (CMC) will meet with each ministry committee or board either face to face or via video conferencing. The purpose is to have an open conversation that results in a funding agreement which is collaborative and cooperative.

Note: Partnership Requests must be submitted in the spring in order to give the CMC sufficient time to present their recommendation to classis in October.

Each ministry will include in its Partnership Request:

1. State your annual funding request for the next three years.
2. Share a concise summary of the ministry's operation:
 - a. What are you celebrating in this ministry?
 - b. What has caused you concern?
 - c. What challenges are you facing as you continue?
3. Review ministry goals
 - a. What are your ministry goals?
 - b. How were the goals met or not met in the past few years?
 - c. What adjustments (if any) are deemed necessary going forward in light of the Spirit's leadership, cultural shifts, and measurable results?
4. Review the latest budget and a summary budget overview of the previous 2 years
 - a. What has been your biggest financial surprise and challenge?
 - b. Share some planned initiatives to increase funding from various sources.
 - c. What would you do if you had more funding?
5. Review how the ministry continues to align with the mission and values of Classis BCNW
 - a. What value(s) is/are most alive in your particular ministry?
 - b. Which value do you find most challenging in your ministry?

6. Besides funding, what other assistance can Classis BCNW provide to this ministry?

IV. APPEAL

Ministries can appeal their allocation directly to classis if they do not agree with the recommendation of the Classical Ministries Committee.

V. THE MISSION AND VALUES OF CLASSIS BCNW

Our Mission

Classis BCNW exists to encourage, equip, and empower congregations and ministries to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and seek first God's Kingdom.

The Values that Shape our Work, Witness, and Life Together

- PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE ON GOD: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we trust God to lead and provide for us as we engage in ministry together.
- AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY: Intentionally sharing life and story, we build each other up and encourage one another to live lives worthy of the calling we've received.
- DISCIPLES MAKING NEW DISCIPLES: Recognizing that the church's main calling is to make disciples of Jesus, we encourage one another, our congregations, and the ministries we represent to be faithful to God's mission and creative in living it out
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Through funding, training and support, we develop, commission, and equip new and existing leaders.
- COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS: Committing ourselves to each other as God has committed himself to us, we support the work of classis and the ministry of the CRCNA.

Note: when this document is revised, Appendix C of the Classis ROP needs to be updated.

Initial Timeline:

- Ministry Shares requests under this new policy to be approved at the October 2021 Classis Meeting (for the 2022 classis fiscal year)
 - UNBC Campus Ministry
 - Ministry to Seafarers
 - SFC
- Ministry Shares requests under this new policy to be approved at the October 2022 Classis Meeting (for the 2023 classis fiscal year)
 - Safe Church
 - BC LDN
 - Chaplain and Refugee Support Mobilizer

Note: Those ministries who are waiting for implementation under the new plan will continue to be dealt with on an annual basis, as currently happens.