

CLASSIS GRAND RAPIDS EAST

Attachment to All Grant Application Forms

MISSION: To be a community of congregations that encourage, equip, and challenge one another to be vibrant and missional.

CORE VALUES (Abridged)

1. **An Extended Church Community.** We develop long-term relationships that sacrificially enfold people into our family, and are instruments for salvation, healing, and growth.
2. **Authentic, Passionate Faith.** To pass our faith to the next generation we need to know, grow in, and experience God's grace in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
3. **Discipleship.** God holds us accountable for our growth and for how we help others grow as Jesus followers. Let us be and make disciples.
4. **Being Good Neighbors.** God expects us to be salt and light in our neighborhoods and city, and challenges us to implement divine mercy, justice, and righteousness.
5. **Social Justice.** We will overcome our contentment with the status quo, and give priority to addressing the needs of those with fewer resources and more disadvantages.
6. **Diversity.** We are called to be the best possible model of valuing others, with no outsiders who have been consciously or unconsciously excluded.

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

1. **To Develop Leaders:** Coordinate training for church leaders (including orientation to classis meetings) and provide links to other opportunities.
2. **To Worship and Pray Together:** Promote corporate worship in classis and as a community of congregations, and mobilize prayer for our congregations, ministries and partners.
3. **To Thrive in Our Neighborhoods:** Help us partner with public schools, other churches, and businesses to make our neighborhoods better places to live, work, play, learn, and worship.
4. **To Break Down Barriers:** Equip our congregations to identify and break down barriers that prevent full participation in church life.
5. **To Shepherd Each New Generation:** Identify quality resources and provide guidance to congregations for reaching, developing and ministering to persons in each new generation.
6. **To Press on Together:** Increase knowledge, skill, and participation for disciple-making through regular contact, support for each other, and regular training opportunities.
7. **To Partner Ecumenically:** Equip congregations to develop sister church relationships with neighboring churches and develop justice and mercy ministries.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR GRANT FUNDING

Note: These general criteria are supplemented by grant-specific criteria of the ministry teams.

1. All grants from Classis Grand Rapids East (hereafter *Classis*) are to align with its values and priorities and help fulfill its mission.
2. Classis grants are designed to support new ministry initiatives, training needs, and other ministry opportunities.
3. Classis grants are intended to help develop self-sustaining ministry through broader partnership and support (rather than long-term funding by Classis).
4. Classis grants require meaningful partnership and accountability with the appropriate ministry team of Classis and, ordinarily, with one or more member congregations.
5. Grant amounts are finalized by recommendation of the ministry team, endorsement of the ministry plan team, and approval of the executive team.
6. Grant recipients are to report to and be reviewed by the appropriate ministry team at least annually.
7. Actual payment of approved grants will be contingent on available funds.