

Supporting the Needs of the Whole Church

From the Early Church on, church bodies have sought ways to contribute to the needs of the whole church. This is no less true today. The Barnabas Fund has been established to share the blessing of financial resources with those who express a ministry-driven need.

The name Barnabas Fund has been chosen to represent the concept of financial encouragement for those who need a fiscal boost to accomplish their God-calling in ministry.

Scripture Focus

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were not needy persons among them. For from time to time, those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called **Barnabas** (which means "son of encouragement"); sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:33-37 NIV

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BARNABAS FUND



Atlantic Northeast District

Church of the Brethren

→ Our History

For many years, the Atlantic Northeast District (ANE) operated a Mission Church Support Fund (MCSF) which was used to undergird the ministry of the four original “support congregations” which were financially subsidized on an annual basis through the District’s Ministry Investment Plan.

With District Expansion, it became increasingly evident that financial assistance may occasionally be needed by other congregations in economically challenged areas.

The Barnabas Fund seeks to encourage congregations through a grant-based ministry investment strategy that seeks Kingdom-based ministry results through:

- Shared Resources
- Fiscal Accountability
- Ministry Planning
- Economic Partnering

→ Recipients

Consideration will be given to congregations whose characteristics include:

- A verifiable active outreach ministry
- Located in and serving a community with a significant economically challenged population
- Limited resources with circumstances beyond their control
- Sizable community needs that surpass the congregation’s ability to respond

The Barnabas Fund shall not be used to:

- Compensate for poor stewardship practices
- Compensate for deferred maintenance
- Sustain an “inwardly” focused congregation seeking survival

There must be clear evidence of Gospel and Mission.

→ Process

The Barnabas Fund Team will set and publish quarterly meeting times to review applications.

- Applications for funds other than a calendar year may be submitted at any time, but must be received at the District office no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting date
- Applications requesting funds needed for a calendar year must be received at the District office no later than May 1 of the prior year
- Meetings may be cancelled as appropriate
- Applicant will be contacted within 10 days following the Team meeting

→ Purpose

The Barnabas Fund seeks to empower congregations with identifiable needs to:

- Productively achieve successful outreach and evangelism ministries in their community
- Broaden the scope of their ministry
- Care for unforeseen expenses