

## Vitality Ministry Council Requests Proposals for “Sharing Vitality” Grants

An exciting new dimension of the work of the Vitality Ministry Council of the NACCC in 2024 is the dedication of funds to encourage churches to be exploratory, ambitious, collaborative and generative in ministries that enhance the vitality of the local church.

The goal of these \$2500 grants is to support churches wanting to thrive through programs that deepen learning, strengthen connection, and allow for innovation in ministry. This grant program is for one calendar year beginning in January 2025 and ending December 2025. It was created to highlight efforts of member churches across the NACCC. Our hope is to provide opportunities for collegial learning, encouragement and support between member churches. We believe vitality development can be done when churches share success stories and plans with other churches.

Grant applicants are encouraged to emphasize the following in their proposals.

- **Collaboration** – cohort applicants, or applications with plans for convening a cohort, are especially appealing. Cohorts could be geographic, remote based on affinity, etc.
- **Sustainability** – ideally funds would be used to develop a program that would be able to continue as proposed in the future with other funding sources if needed.
- **Scalability/Replicability with Contextualization** – ideally funds would be used to cultivate and develop new ongoing ministry opportunities or ministry expansion, rather than create a one-time event or support maintenance of an existing program with no extra developments.
- **Holistic** – the program expands the idea of vitality beyond just numbers to include an increase of enthusiasm for, and commitment to, meaningful ministry.
- **Community Connection/Impact** – ideally funds would be used to develop programs that are mindful about how they impact the local congregation and the larger community of which it is part.

The Vitality Ministry Council works together with the NACCC Director of Programs on its projects and responsibilities. The Council and Director will stay in communication with grant recipients during the year of the project for updates, and to offer support on questions, related opportunities, etc.

**Grant recipients commit to the following activities in partnership with the VMC and Director of Programs in developing their ministry project in the coming year:**

- Creation of resources for other NACCC churches that could help them replicate the funded program in their context. This could include schedules, planning guides, a list of best practices, evaluation results, testimonials, etc.
- Participation in a webinar or similar interactive communication opportunity to share about your program, its mode of sustainability, its potential for implementation by others, and what was learned. A midway progress report should also be given for the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- Willingness to be called upon to field questions and act as a consultant to churches in their own related vitality efforts.

**Proposals of no more than 3 pages can be sent to the Vitality Ministry Council through [lwright@naccc.org](mailto:lwright@naccc.org) by November 1, 2024.** Proposals should include a narrative of the project goal and a simple budget for use of funds. The Council and NACCC staff may dialogue with applicants about refining proposals for approval, with award decisions being announced in December 2024.

\* The Vitality Ministry Council is tasked by and works with the NACCC to strengthen congregations in member churches. Vitality activities relate to supporting clergy and lay leaders, providing practical church resources, and cultivating experiences to promote congregational vitality.