



Harvest Time

*Open your eyes and look at the fields!
They are ripe for harvest! John 4:35*

Harvest Grants 2009: Assistance in the Field

At our Annual Meeting in Moline, we introduced the theme of **Harvest Time**, and encouraged churches to “open their eyes” to the field all around them. **Harvest Grants** are intended to encourage and empower churches to do just that during 2009. These matching grants can be used by GRR churches for just about any evangelistic effort during 2009. Our operational definition of an “evangelistic effort” is any program, activity, or event directed to those outside the church and including an intentional invitation to Christian discipleship.

This is how it works:

The church designs an evangelistic effort that invites persons not regularly associated with the church to Christian discipleship. That effort might be a program over several weeks or a single event. Be creative as you look at the field around you. Include the cost of the evangelistic effort in your regular budget for 2009. Based on the merit of the proposal and the availability of funds, GRR will award a matching grant (up to a maximum of \$500) to the church for the purpose of enhancing the financial support of the Harvest.

For example, the church may commit to a video series on the life of Christ, actively inviting unchurched neighbors to attend. The church budgets \$1000 to cover the costs of the program. If approved by the Region, the church will receive \$500. (If the church had budgeted \$400, they would be eligible for \$200; if the church had budgeted \$3000, they would still be eligible for only \$500).

Who may apply for grants? Any GRR church in good standing. “Good standing” is evidenced by a current annual report on file in the Regional office and having contributed to the financial support of the Region, either through United Mission, America for Christ, or Specifics during 2008.

What is the deadline? Complete applications need to be received by **1 April 2009**. The church will be notified of approval as soon as possible.

What are the limitations? There are no restrictions with to the nature of the Harvest effort. However, it must include an intentional invitation to Christian discipleship.

What do we do?

1. Prayerfully discern how your church might participate in the work of the harvest to which God has called you.
2. Prepare a brief written description of the proposed effort and have it approved by the church. In particular, include the funding in the 2009 church budget.
3. Submit the **application** to GRR before 1 April 2009. Include:
 - a. The **cover sheet** with signatures of the Pastor and Moderator.
 - b. A short (1-2 pages) **explanation of the Harvest project**, especially explaining the evangelistic effort.
 - c. A copy of the **2009 church budget** as approved by the church. Please identify the budget lines associated with the Harvest project.
4. The Region will review the proposal and make awards on the basis of merit and the availability of funds. Notice of award will be made as soon as possible.
5. When the Harvest project concludes, please send a brief evaluation of your experience, including the benefits to the church and the things you learned to the Region.

GRR Harvest Grants
Great Rivers Region
P.O. Box 3786
Springfield IL 62708-3786



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Application for GRR Harvest Grant

The purpose of the GRR Harvest Grant is to encourage and empower churches to join the harvest in 2009, by inviting persons to Christian discipleship. Grants are awarded on a matching basis, up to a maximum of \$500.

Church: _____

Address: _____

Title or short description of Harvest Project:

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We certify that the Church has authorized this project, as evidenced by including \$ _____ in the church budget for 2009

(signatures):

Pastor: _____

Church Moderator: _____

Use this as the cover for the application. Include: (1) a short explanation of the Harvest project, and (2) the approved 2009 church budget (please identify funding for the Harvest project).