# East Midland Baptist Association

## Pioneer Mission Grant (PMG)

## Guidance Notes

The EMBA exists to serve East Midlands Baptists in mission. This purpose is achieved by promoting healthy churches through inspiring, equipping, caring, partnering, and through the pioneering of new Christian communities and mission initiatives. In all these activities we seek to live under Christ’s rule and to be intentionally missional, relational and creative.

**EMBA Pioneer Mission Grants** may be offered for missional initiatives which extend the reach of the Gospel beyond the boundaries of the existing church; reaching into new communities or cultures. Grants may be awarded to churches, mission partners or to individuals. Priority will be given to those initiatives which seek to establish a community of discipleship that is authentic to both the context in which it is set and to the Way of Christ.

Funding applications will be considered that demonstrate a variety of the following:

**Intentionally Missional:**

* An intention to discover and express new attitudes, new actions and new habits in mission.
* An intention to reach a wider variety of people and sub-cultures than are presently reached by existing churches in the East Midlands, especially amongst poor and vulnerable communities. In other words they will break new ground.
* An expectation of sustainability and development.

**Intentionally Relational:**

* An intention to pioneer with an openness to and respect for the wider Christian community.
* An ability to engage in reflective practice for the benefit of the Association.
* An acceptance of a trusted freedom whilst remaining demonstrably accountable.

**Intentionally Creative:**

* A willingness to take calculated creative risks in establishing new communities.
* A commitment to develop a community of disciples who seek to demonstrate Baptistic values as they live under Christ’s rule.

Grants awarded from this fund will be primarily of a seed corn nature, providing set up and early years funding for:

* **Staffing** – early funding of posts usually in conjunction with other funding streams e.g. other organisations or employment. (Substantial funding of ministerial posts and typical church worker posts over a period of several years might alternatively be eligible for a Mission Grant).
* **Resources** – that may enable early development (e.g. rental of space, purchase of equipment, etc).
* **Pilot projects** – that may lead to growth in understanding and development of a full ministry.
* **Training** – development of budding pioneers and new teams involved in mission initiatives.
* **Networking** – allowing pioneers to meet for mutual development and support.

*It may be possible to receive part of the grant payment as an upfront lump sum in the first month of payment (this would not normally apply to the salary element of the grant). Please indicate on the application form if this would be helpful and provide further explanation.*

**Application process**

* Full discussion with a Regional Minister.
* An application form to be completed for all applications.
* Upon receipt of the completed application form applicants will normally be visited by representatives of the EMBA Grants Group (may include EMBA RM) to seek any clarification or further information required. The grant application will then be considered by the EMBA Grants Group.
* In some circumstances potential pioneers might also be invited to attend a formal interview and be asked to provide references.

**Accountability and Reporting**

It is expected that all churches/pioneers receiving grants would be willing to submit a maximum of one A4 page (typed font size 12) outlining part of your story that is enabled through your grant from Home Mission funds. This is not a report but an opportunity for you to share what God is doing in and through your church / ministry and enables the Association to share some amazing stories with the wider Association to provide encouragement, spark new thinking and raise the profile of Home Mission Giving! We request this on a yearly basis for the duration of the grant.

It is further expected that pioneers take full advantage of appropriate learning and networking opportunities within the Association, Baptist Union and / or ecumenically. The RM with responsibility for pioneering is available to offer guidance on this matter.

**Additional Notes**

* We cannot guarantee funding for more than one year at a time, even if the intention is for longer term funding. Every year a new application should be made to EMBA.
* Where the pioneering is a ‘traditional’ church plant instigated by an existing Baptist church or churches, grants would normally be expected to be match-funded by the churches involved.
* Applications are treated on a case by case basis. The collective wisdom of the pioneer community suggests a typical 10-year time horizon for a work to be established and fully sustainable.  EMBA Pioneer grants would normally be offered for an initial 5 years, up to a maximum of £15,000 per year at the outset.  However, given the nature of pioneer ministry, following review at the 5-year mark, pioneer grants can be made available for an additional 1-5 years.  There is an expectation that the level of grant given will reduce over time in the ministry’s journey towards sustainability.
* The Grants Group will work with the pioneer and their management group to help assess the development and sustainability of the ministry periodically, typically after 12 months, and three and five years.
* The use of the grant money is to be determined by the management group and not prescribed by the Grants Group – i.e. the money may be used for NI/pension contributions, housing costs, pioneer expenses etc. However, any application would explain in detail where it was anticipated that the grant money would be spent.

***If you have any queries / questions relating to the grant process please contact your Regional Minister or Becky Nicholls (EMBA Administrative Support):***EMBA Office, c/o West Bridgford Baptist Church, Melton Road, West Bridgford, Notts NG2 7NF

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