



## GUIDELINES – 2020-2021

### Purpose

The NT-NL Synod Council and the NT-NL Stewardship Committee established the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) in 1992. The purpose of the MEF is to enhance the Synod's efforts to support its mission ministries and offer individual stewardship opportunities beyond the general operation of the NT-NL Synod. The goal of the Mission Endowment Fund is to award grants for specific and identifiable projects or programs of the NT-NL Synod missions and congregations.

### Priorities

Specifically, the Mission Endowment Fund seeks to support the following:

1. Proposals that suggest innovative ways to raise up new rostered/lay leaders for effective ministry
2. Proposals to assist new mission starts
3. Proposals to assist ministries in newly and existing congregations that have potential but have inadequate financial resources

**Note:** The MEF board will not consider applications for funds to be used for construction of buildings or upgrades to existing buildings.

## Guidelines

The following guidelines shall be used to request and administer MEF grants:

1. Any mission or established congregation of the NT-NL Synod is eligible to apply for a grant.
2. Support for leadership formation for clergy and laity serving in the NT-NL missions or congregations may qualify for a grant.
3. MEF grants may augment grants from other sources only if compelling substantiation is provided.
4. Each recipient mission or congregation shall complete the required REPORT/Summary supplied by MEF (which includes photos, bulletins, newsletter articles, etc.) to the Executive Director that summarizes the impact of the grant on the ministry. The REPORT should be filed as soon as the ministry event occurs, or at the end of the year if the ministry is ongoing. Missions and congregations are ineligible for subsequent increments or awards without the requisite final reports.
5. In the event that the funded program or ministry does not occur, all funds received shall be returned to the Mission Endowment Fund.
6. All requests must use the official MEF application form. The completed application form including the budget, along with any requested attachments, must be received by **January 6, 2021** via online submission (found at [ntnl.org/mef/](http://ntnl.org/mef/)) or via email to: [MEF@ntnl.org](mailto:MEF@ntnl.org) or via snail mail to: NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund, c/o Linda Ness, 680 Copper Canyon Road, Argyle, TX 76226

*In consideration of and by accepting this grant from the Mission Endowment Fund of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (NT-NL Synod), the mission/congregation hereby agrees that should the mission/congregation at any time leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for any reason whatever, the mission/congregation will be responsible for repaying this and any additional grants in full before receiving a release from the NT-NL Synod.*

Grant awards will typically be disbursed following the February board meeting.