

(Read the Frequently Asked Questions thoroughly before completing the application.)

### **What is *Christmas for Christ*?**

*Christmas for Christ* is a North American Missions effort by which funds are raised at Christmas time in North American churches to sponsor missionaries and support various North American Missions ministries in the United States and Canada.

### **What types of allocations are available and how may the funds be used? (choose ONLY one)**

- Personal Assistance:
  - A monthly allocation to assist the church planter with living expenses
- Property Lease:
  - A monthly allocation used to rent/lease a facility for congregational meetings
- Property Purchase:
  - A onetime allocation to purchase property or an existing building
- Property Remodel:
  - A onetime allocation to renovate a building already owned by the congregation

### **Where can I find a *Christmas for Christ* Application?**

The *Christmas for Christ* application is available online at [www.northamericanmissions.faith](http://www.northamericanmissions.faith) under resources. ONLY online applications are accepted.

### **When are *Christmas for Christ* applications due?**

Complete applications must be received by North American Missions by 11:59pm CT, January 15. Late applications are not accepted.

### **How does one apply for *Christmas for Christ* support?**

Applicants submit a *Christmas for Christ* application. The application must be complete and accurate for consideration. The applicant **must** be a licensed minister of the United Pentecostal Church International. Further, the application **must** have the signatures of the District Superintendent and North American Missions Director in the district where the church is started.

### **What is the maximum amount of funding available each year for assistance?**

The missionary may request up to \$2,000 per month (\$24,000 per year) for monthly allocations (Personal Assistance or Property Lease) or up to a \$15,000 Property Grant for Property Purchase or Property Remodel.

### **How many years can a church planter receive *Christmas for Christ* funding?**

A *Christmas for Christ* Missionary is eligible to receive up to three years of funding during their 5-year North American Missions' status.

This can be three years of monthly allocations for Personal Assistance or Property Lease.

A missionary is eligible once for a onetime allocation for Property Purchase or Property Remodel during their 5-year North American Missions' status. If they receive this onetime allocation, it will count as one of the three years of funding.

### **Where do I send the completed application?**

When you submit your application via this form, the application will automatically be emailed to the General North American Missions office and the district officials for approvals. The application will be processed and applicant will receive an email indicating the application was received. If incomplete, the applicant will be given the opportunity to submit any missing items prior to 11:59pm CT, Jan 15.

- ***Late applications will not be considered.***

### **What is the responsibility of my district in regards to my application?**

- The District Executive Committee is responsible for review, approval and authorization of the application. Once completed, it is the District North American Missions Director's responsibility to ensure all signatures for the application are submitted to North American Missions.
- When the application pertains to the purchase of property, it is the responsibility of the District North American Missions Executive Committee to investigate and inspect the property, check city regulations and all other matters related to the property.
- Since funds cannot be invested in property held in the name of an individual, it is recommended that the district assist the missionary in selecting the trustees. This should be discussed with the missionary when he is approved to start a new work or before the property is purchased.
- A standard lien attachment is developed by each district in harmony with the laws of each state or province. The lien document is simple and free of unnecessary encumbrances. The lien attachment applies to all North American Missions churches receiving any UPCI monies invested in real property. Examples

include: *Move the Mission* property grants, *Christmas for Christ* property grants, *Church in a Day* property loans & property appropriations from district funds.

- It is necessary that the district officials take the initiative to set the church in order as soon as possible according to the current issue of the Manual of the United Pentecostal Church International.

### **Do I need to submit any other items along with the application?**

All applications require a current photo of the church planter and family.

Property Purchase applications require pictures of the building or land to be purchased and a copy of the purchase contract.

Property Lease applications require pictures of the building to be leased and a copy of the lease agreement.

### **What are the requirements of the church planter's church BEFORE the application is submitted?**

- Churches must be self-governing (*daughter works are ineligible for Christmas for Christ funds*) and set in order according to the current issue of the Manual of the United Pentecostal Church International. It is advisable that churches be locally incorporated.
- The property is to be held in trust by the trustees for the local church, and **not in an individual's name**. North American Missions funds are not invested in property in which the title of ownership is held in question. Provision should be made in the church by-laws for the trustees and their duly elected successors.
- To **apply** for *Christmas for Christ* funds, the church **must be affiliated** with the United Pentecostal Church. Completed affiliation applications are submitted to Church Administration. Call Church Administration at 636-229-7900 for information regarding affiliation applications.
- Applicant must complete required online [CFC training](#) OR have **attended, in person, Launch Training**. Email [nam@upci.org](mailto:nam@upci.org) for more information.
- The applicant is required to read Article XII, Section 14 and 15, as well as Sections 1 and 2 of the North American Missions Policies of the UPCI: General Board.

### **Who makes the decision regarding the allocation of *Christmas for Christ* funds?**

The North American Missions Administrative Committee, as defined by the UPCI Manual, reviews and researches each application. Input regarding the priority of the applications is given by the District North American Missions Director for each applicant.

### **How long before the applicant learns whether an application was funded?**

The North American Missions Administrative Committee meets in March. All applicants are notified of the decision by the last week of March.

### **If my application is not awarded funding, what are my options?**

- You have the option of applying for assistance the following year if still on-site and under North American Missions' status.
- If the funding is for the purchase of property, you may apply for *Move the Mission* funding. These grants are available from the Youth Ministries of the United Pentecostal Church. *Move the Mission* grants can only be used to purchase or improve real property and cannot be applied to the leased property. *Move the Mission* Grant applications are due August 15th. The UPCI Youth Ministries team makes their allocations each fall during General Conference. Applicants are notified by the end of October and funds are available March 1st of the following year. *Move the Mission* applications are located at [www.northamericanmissions.faith](http://www.northamericanmissions.faith) and open June 1st.

### **If approved for funding, what's next?**

- Personal Assistance and Property Lease allocations are made payable to the church. Monthly allocations will begin May 1st and conclude April 1st.
- Onetime allocations (Property Purchase or Property Remodel) are held until your District North American Missions Director contacts North American Missions and requests the funds. Once requested, the funds are sent to your district office for distribution. Property Grant funds are available for up to two years from the date they become available.
- Each month the missionary submits an online report to North American Missions and the District North American Missions Director. The report must be received in order for the next month's allocation to be released.
- A new CFC application must be submitted each year in order to receive allocation.

May the Lord bless you in planting a church!

Scott Sistrunk

General Director of North American Missions

United Pentecostal Church International