

*****SFC Applicant Policy*****

What are the requirements of the church planter's church BEFORE the application is submitted to the District?

1. Churches must be autonomous (**daughter works are ineligible for SFC grants**) and set in order according to the current issue of the Manual of the United Pentecostal Church. It is suggested that churches be locally incorporated. In no instances will North American Missions funds be invested in property, etc., in which the title of ownership is held in question or where the ownership is in the name of an individual.
2. The property is to be held in trust by the trustees for the local church, and not in an individual's name. (see Local Church Government, Article IV, Section 2, of the *UPCI Manual*, page 116).
3. The church must be affiliated. No work is affiliated with the United Pentecostal Church International unless an application is signed by the pastor and District Board, the five dollar fee accompanies it, and it is sent to Church Administration of the United Pentecostal Church International, 36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304.

Who makes the decision regarding the allocation of Sheaves for Christ funds?

The General Youth Ministries Board, which meets in the fall at General Conference, researches each application before allocating the funds. Each application is reviewed in a fair and open manner. However, no guarantees can be made by either North American Missions or the Youth Ministries (or any personnel or executive in either division) until the application has been reviewed. After a decision has been made, the General Youth Ministries reports to North American Missions regarding the allocations. This report includes a list of the total amount of money they will commit to each property grant request.

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

The General Youth Ministries Board meets at General Conference; therefore, all who have applied are notified within 30 days after General Conference. ****NOTE**** Funds granted will not be sent to recipients until North American Missions actually receives the funds from the General Youth Ministries (usually by March of the following year).

Are all Sheaves for Christ applications approved?

Every year there are many more applications than what Sheaves for Christ is able to sponsor. We do not guarantee support to any applicant. We do promise, however, to be fair and open in our consideration of all applications.

What happens if an application is not approved, and what are my options?

1. You will receive a letter of denial; however, you will have the option of applying for assistance the following year if you are still eligible. (Church planters are eligible to apply for up to ten years from the church's established date until the \$25,000.00 limit is reached.)
2. North American Missions also offers property grants through Christmas for Christ. These applications can be obtained through North American Missions by going online at www.northamericanmissions.faith
3. North American Missions also has "Church In a Day" loans available to churches that already own land. These funds are repaid to North American Missions for reallocation to another church for loan. Information on the specifics regarding "Church In a Day" is available online at www.churchinaday.faith

What happens if an allocation is approved, and what are my responsibilities?

1. You will receive a letter informing you of your approval and when the dispersal of funds is likely to begin. Distribution of funds is withheld until North American Missions receives the funds from the General Youth Ministries.
2. After North American Missions receives the funds from the Youth Ministries, North American Missions retains the funds until your **District North American Missions Director** contacts North American Missions and requests the release of the funds. After the property funds have been requested by the District Director, these funds will be sent to the district office for distribution.
3. It is required that all approved missionaries are a minister within the United Pentecostal Church International and their church has been affiliated (which does require a district application, district official signatures, and \$5 processing fee sent to Church Administration).

I have heard that Emergency Funds are available, how do I apply?

Sheaves for Christ does allow a church planter to request Emergency Funds. These requests, which come in during the year, will be limited to \$2,500 per applicant and are handled on a case by case basis. Requests must come with a completed emergency SFC application. This application is online at www.northamericanmissions.faith. If approved by the General Youth Ministries and North American Missions, these funds will be sent to the District Office upon request by your District Office. Please read carefully the section entitled *Regulations Governing Investment of Funds for Property* (page 158) in the most recent Manual of the United Pentecostal Church International, which will prepare you to answer several questions in this application.