

Church Improvement Loan Fund Guidelines

COVID-19 Response

Church of the Brethren Northern Ohio District

The Northern Ohio District exists to support our congregations in all aspects of ministry and church growth. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, churches are struggling as in-person worship services are suspended and there are questions about how that will impact the giving to local congregations.

To help during this time, the district will provide interest free loans to help congregations pay their expenses. This is intended to cover the gap between ongoing expenses and a drop in offerings while worship services are suspended and until giving recovers when services resume. Our intention is to provide up to 3 months of operating expenses on a month-to-month basis, so that church treasurer's will not need to worry about where the money will come from to pay the pastor and the bills. Repayment plans will be negotiated with congregations when it is time to begin repayment and we will work with each congregation's need.

What the loans are for: Funds are for operating expenses, including salaries/benefits.

How the fund works: The Church Improvement Loan Fund is a loan given to congregations at 0% interest. The church can apply for up to 3 months of operating expenses on a month-to-month basis.

Who can apply: Congregations or recognized fellowships of the Church of the Brethren in the Northern Ohio District.

Amount of the loan: Loans can be for up to 3 months of operating expenses. These can be provided month-by-month as the church requests.

Availability: Applications for the Church Improvement Loan Fund will be accepted from April 1 through June 30, 2020.

Review Process: Through prayer and discernment, the Stewardship and Finance Commission of the District Board will evaluate each loan application. The Stewardship and Finance Commission may approve loans for up to \$5,000. For loans over \$5,000, the Stewardship and Finance Commission will send recommendations to the District Board (or the Executive on their behalf) for approval. Applications will be considered within 1 week of being received.

Disbursement of Funds: Loan funds will be sent to the congregation approximately two weeks after loan approval.

Repayment: The Stewardship and Finance Commission will contact church leadership to determine a repayment schedule in August of 2020.

The Northern Ohio District Board prays that this program will bless many congregations as we work together in ministry as brothers and sisters in Christ. For further information or to request a loan application, please contact the Northern Ohio District Office, 1107 East Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805, phone 419-281-3058 or e-mail at nohcob.org.

COVID-19 Assistance Loan Application
Church of the Brethren Northern Ohio District

Date of Application _____ (NOHCOB use) Loan Number _____

Name of Congregation _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Name of Person filling out this application _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Leadership Role or Title _____

Loan Application

- 1. Provide the monthly operating expenses of your congregation, including salaries/benefits**
- 2. Amount of loan requested (up to 3 months of expenses).**
- 3. Provide a proposed quarterly repayment schedule.**

Pastor's Signature _____

Chairperson or Leadership Team (Contact Person) Signature _____

Church Treasurer Signature _____

Send completed form and attachments to:

Northern Ohio District Office
1107 East Main Street
Ashland, OH 44805

or e-mail to julie@nohcob.org.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Upon careful and prayerful review the above individual/church request for assistance was:

____ Approved for _____ (amount) _____ Denied _____ Returned for Resubmittal

Stewardship and Finance Commission Chairperson (or Designee) Signature Date of Action

District Board Chair Signature (required for amounts above \$5000) Date of Action