

B R Y N M A W R P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

| Richard Shaull Mission Grant

The Richard Shaull Mission Grant was established in 2004 as a celebration of the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Richard Shaull. Shaull lived a life of service to the global church as an educator, theologian, mission worker, and author. He had a deep belief in the possibility of radical change on both social and personal levels and spent his life working with others toward the realization of this dream. Since its inception, more than 25 recipients in 23 countries have received funds totaling over \$700,000.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church is guided in its mission work locally and internationally by values rooted in our ever-reforming Presbyterian faith tradition as well as an awareness that we are called to partner in intentional ways. We are people of hope. Interwoven within the Bible's demands for justice and righteousness is the message of redemption and transformation and of suffering transformed into new life. Our response to this message of hope and our work in mission vary according to the need and situation, often falling into one of three types of work: *compassion, justice, and transformation*.

The work of **COMPASSION** provides immediate assistance and relief to people who need food, clothing, shelter, education, and financial and medical aid. As we engage in compassionate service and enter into relationships with those we serve, we begin to see with new eyes and hear with new ears. Searching for the causes of suffering, we recognize that the structures of society too often deny people abundant life, and we are open to hear God's call to work for justice.

The work of **JUSTICE** attempts to address the sources of suffering by exposing oppression and exploitation and working with (and within) communities to find solutions. This work goes beyond sharing materials or wealth; it is sharing time, insight, and talent. Partnership is essential whether advocating on behalf of marginalized communities or acting to empower such communities.

Finally, the work of **TRANSFORMATION** is the highest goal yet the hardest to achieve. Transformation cannot be programmed or planned. It is an act of grace. But often, by working in dynamic partnership and relationship with people on the margins, we seek to be a vehicle as well as a recipient of transformation. As a result of mutual study, prayer, and effort, we hope to arrive at the place of solidarity. Solidarity means physically and spiritually standing with those in the midst of struggle. It requires commitment to communities of brokenness as we engage in dialogue and sharing.

Our calling is to respond to the complexities of our world and to relate to people in ways that enable them to discover their own solutions and reconstruct their own lives. A response faithful to the Gospel is based on a compassionate relationship and a vision of wholeness. We recognize that this is a journey. The world will continue to change, and we will be asked to change as well as we seek to be effective and faithful in this work.

FUNDING CRITERIA

The Richard Shaull Mission Grant provides funding for new projects at their inception and/or for remarkable mission leaders around the world (but not in the Philadelphia area).

Funding decisions will take into consideration the following additional criteria, among others:

- Projects that fall within the work of Justice or Transformation as described in the BMPC mission values above
- Empowerment of the community that is leading the project and being served by it
- Projects that value and foster partnership rather than paternalism
- Goals, methodologies, and outcomes that are respectful of the culture(s) in which it operates
- Demonstration of the organization's financial transparency and accountability
- Clearly defined methods to assess outcomes
- Sustainability of a project beyond subsequent funding from BMPC

Proposals must highlight how the project or program is new and innovative for this community and/or in a particular context. Funding will not be awarded for existing programs or capacity building towards an existing program.

Proposals must fall into the categories of justice or transformational work. We seek to support programs and projects that are rooted in an Asset-Based Community Development model. There should be a clear understanding of the dynamics of the community being served, evidence of that community's involvement, an explanation of what the community's assets are, and how that community will measure success. Projects need to involve activities that enable greater freedom and independence on the part of the recipients. Projects also need to seek humane community development and just structures and systems. Finally, projects need to connote a reciprocal relationship where both parties become interdependent and benefit from the relationship.

Funds may be designated for the following: salaries (for a project or a remarkable individual doing Kingdom work), capital (buildings, equipment, and supplies), sabbaticals and study for mission workers, service programs, and travel.

GRANT PROCESS AND DEADLINES

The full application for the Shaull Mission Grant can be found at bmpc.org/grants

Completed proposals for the 2026 cycle must be submitted by **November 21, 2025**, to [**grants@bmpc.org**](mailto:grants@bmpc.org)

Proposals will be reviewed in January and February of 2026. This grant requires a final report to be submitted to BMPC, including both financial accounting and programmatic narratives.

For more information about the Richard Shaull Mission Grant, contact:
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PAST RECIPIENTS

WOMAN, CRADLE OF ABUNDANCE, INC.

2023 - \$43,728

Woman, Cradle of Abundance focuses on the needs of the poorest women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and most of its 1200 members come from the margins of society. Several longstanding programs empower and educate: a Sewing School for young women; micro-savings/micro-loan programs for mature women; educational assistance for destitute children and orphans; a farm to feed members and to demonstrate best agricultural practices; a shop selling clothing to model business skills and help support other projects. In 2023, funding was used to launch The Computer Science Institute, preparing its students to participate in various commercial services and enterprises in roles ranging from secretarial services for local communities to clerk, administrative assistant, or office manager in established businesses.

HAGAR'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

2020 - \$48,000

Hagar's Community Church is a new congregation planted in 2019 inside the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW). The mission of Hagar's Community Church is to be a sanctuary for God's Beloved Exiles at the WCCW, to afford the individuals who are incarcerated at the WCCW their own Christian community through which they might explore their spirituality and encounter the proclamation and experience of God's love. The mission further includes engaging the congregations on the outside into relationship with this New Worshipping Community at WCCW. Hagar's Community Church is about the business of proclaiming the Gospel truth that God indeed loves, without measure, every individual incarcerated at the WCCW- knowing that this truth has the ability to transform not only the women at the WCCW, but also the Churches in the local presbytery and the entire denomination. The goal is to be a ministry with, rather than to, those who are incarcerated.

MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION

2019 - \$58,570

Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) is a Christ-centered organization dedicated to transforming lives by building sustainable health care ministries in developing countries. Through long-term partnerships, MBF equips the indigenous church with tools and resources that allow them to meet the health care needs of their community and share the Gospel. Shaul funding was used to launch The LifeSavers Clinic Network, creating a medical linkage with the potential to vastly improve primary medical care in church-owned clinics in the country of Malawi. By training, equipping, and standardizing local church-owned medical clinics, these facilities were empowered to significantly improve the quality of medical care received by thousands of underserved patients and to promote local community sustainability.

FARM CHURCH

2017 - \$50,000

Farm Church, located in Durham, NC, is a new congregation in the PC(USA)'s 1001 New Worshipping Communities program that meets on a farm and is faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ by leveraging all the resources of that farm to address food insecurity. In traditional Presbyterian congregations, mission has spread a mile wide and only an inch deep. Farm Church is committed to having one mission and one mission only. We address food insecurity in Durham County, which is 18% food-insecure. Shaul funding in 2017 was used specifically to support this new congregation's agricultural capacity and garden staff, as well as pastoral care.