

THE MONTANA SYNOD

MISSION VENTURE CAPITAL FUND

An individual or a small business may have a **great idea** for a new product or service, but lack the finances to make it a reality. What can they do? Often, the solution is to apply for **Venture capital funding**. An individual or venture capital firm will provide the seed money that is necessary, with the hope that they will eventually share in the profits.

Here in the Montana Synod, we are using this concept to help our CONGREGATIONS that may have a **great idea** for doing outreach and service in their communities – but need some financial assistance to make it happen. The Montana Synod’s **Mission Venture Capital Fund (MVCF)** can provide the “seed money” that is needed to help start the new ministry! (For example, this year the MVCF has provided a grant for “Friendship Café” – a coffee house ministry for teens on the south side of Billings, MT that is being supported by First English and King of Glory Lutheran Churches in Billings.)

Currently the MVCF has around \$45,000. We also hope that this fund will continue to grow through receiving a tithe of all contributions to the Synod House campaign, as well as from other contributions from individuals and congregations.

HOW IT WILL WORK:

If your congregation has a **great idea** for a new outreach or service ministry and needs some financial start-up assistance to help make it happen, the Montana Synod Mission Venture Capital Fund may be able to help! Applications for funding will be evaluated by the Missional Strategy Leg of the MT Synod’s Mission Table, based on the following characteristics:

- **Reflect one or more of the Montana Synod Benchmarks** (*Meet the Future Boldly, Serve the World, Deepen Faith and Witness; Promote Unity; Support Congregations*)
- **Innovative and bold**
- **Missional** (outward-focused service and/or witness) – not maintenance
- **Sustainable** (it is hoped that the ministry will be long term and eventually become financially self-supported by the congregation or on its own)
- **Replicable** (the new ministry may serve as a model that could be implemented elsewhere)

Congregations or ministry partners will be asked to provide up to 50% of the Mission Venture cost – and also may be asked to consider a gradual “payback” of the MVCF funds received to assure that MVCF funding will be available to other congregations as new mission ventures arise.

For further information about details of the MVCF and how it might be able to help your congregation’s new outreach and/or service ministry get started, please contact Pastor George Karres (Director for Evangelical Mission) at (406) 453-1461 or by email at gkarres@montanasynod.org.