



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A private foundation since 1937

June 29, 2026

Greetings BGCVA Churches,

We pray that you are well. We are excited to share that the **2026 Church Learning Grant application** is now open. We are granting ten (10) congregations within BGCVA across Virginia \$1,500.00 each to engage in their community with a small community impact grant.

The Church Learning Grant is designed to assist churches in identifying and executing community-based programs in response to growing needs beyond their own context. All BGCVA churches are invited to apply, **with the exception of churches that are past Church Learning Grant recipients.**

The Lilly Grant Team will present at the opportunity at the Baptist General Convention of Virginia's 127th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Faith Formation. In addition, we will host a virtual information session at 7:00 PM, Monday, July 13, 2026. These will be your opportunities to learn more about the grant, how best to write your application, and how the team selects awardees. Join us on that evening virtually using the credentials below.

Web-based: www.zoom.us with Meeting ID: 876 0761 8141 and Passcode: 104780

Telephone: (301) 715-8592 with Meeting ID: 876 0761 8141 and Passcode: 104780

For more information about the Church Learning Grant, please use the QR code below to view a short video that highlights two churches from past Church Learning Grant awards.



For additional information on the Church Learning Grant and the other BGCVA Lilly Grant Endowment opportunities, please call the BGCVA office at (804) 228-2421 or email together@bgcva.org.

The BGCVA Lilly Grant Team,

Rev. Dr. Leo Whitaker, Co-Director of Administration
Rev. Dr. Cheryle Rodriguez, Co-Director of Christian Faith Formation
Rev. Dr. Linwood Blizzard, II, Consultant

“Bringing, Growing, and Changing Congregations and Communities Together”

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH LEARNING GRANT

GRANT PURPOSE

The Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) grant is a five-year grant of \$1,250,000 to begin a series of projects and initiatives designed to help congregations grow spiritually, relationally, and socially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHURCH LEARNING GRANTS

Church Learning Grants of \$1,500 per church are designed to assist churches in identifying and executing community-based programs in response to growing needs beyond their own context. Such needs may in fact have been prompted by the realities of the pandemic and its continuing effect on communal life. It is anticipated that churches will gain first-hand experience in focusing their energies on a particular community outreach project through program visioning, implementation, assessment, and community impact.

Date:_____

Total Seed Grant: **\$1,500**

Church:_____

Pastor:_____

Church Address (where check would be mailed): _____

Grant Project Contact:_____

Phone:_____

Email: _____

Proposed Use of Funds: (In brief narrative form, respond to the questions on the next page to describe how these funds will be used to implement your community initiative – indicating allocations for *specific expenditures* as may be appropriate. Identify the particular community need to be achieved through use of this seed grant.)

Questions (please answer on a separate form)

1. In what ways does your church's mission statement suggest the importance of ministry to the community? (Limit to less than 2,000 characters)
2. Describe your understanding of the importance of ministry beyond the walls of the church? (Limit to less than 2,000 characters)
3. How would you describe the community around your church (i.e. social, demographic and cultural realities) and what would you identify as a particular need your congregation can/should address through this seed grant? (Limit to less than 2,000 characters)
4. Reflecting on the particular strengths of your congregation, what does the church already have as an asset in addressing the community need previously named? (Limit to less than 2,000 characters)
5. If awarded, how do you anticipate using this seed grant to address your community need and what impact do you hope to achieve both for the congregation and the community? (Limit to less than 3,000 characters)

Submissions

Online: You can use the link or QR code below to access the application online for entry & submission

<https://tinyurl.com/bgcvalearninggrant2026>



Hard Copy: You can complete the profile questionnaire and answer the five (5) questions and submit it by mail by mailing it to:

Baptist General Convention of Virginia, Inc.
ATTN: Rev. Dr. Cheryle Rodriguez
1214 West Graham Road, Suite 2
Richmond, Virginia 23220

All digital material must be received by 11:59 PM on August 17, 2026. All mailed material must be postmarked by August 17, 2026.



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BGCVA Church Learning Grant Virtual Information Session

July 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM EDT

This will be your opportunity to learn more about the grant,
how best to write your application, and how the team selects awardees

Join via Zoom Meeting online at www.zoom.us or by phone at (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 876 0761 8141

Passcode: 104780

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