

Preparing a Successful Renfro Grant Application: The New Procedure

- **Why are there changes in The Renfro Grant Application process?**

Economic times are hard and the volume of rural churches in need has mushroomed so have the number of Renfro Grant applications. The Selection Committee needs the input from each SEJ Annual Conference submitting applications in order make decisions that award grants of \$5,000 or less to the most needy viable churches.

- **What are the changes in the Renfro Grant?**

There are **NO** changes in the Renfro Grant guidelines only in the in procedure for submitting grant applications. This is still a grant to help rural churches in need of repair or constructing new church buildings – no parsonages, parking lots, play grounds etc.

- **What are the changes in the application procedure?**

The role of the District Superintendent is enhanced. A Conference Selection Committee is established and the Conference is only allowed to submit five (5) ranked applications for consideration.

- **How is the District Superintendent's role enhanced?**

He/She solicits applications from viable rural churches in need of repair/construction in his/her district. (Mat Merker (423-478-0090 or matmerker@aol.com is available to assist in the preparation of these applications). **Completed applications are returned to the District Superintendent.** He/She reviews these applications and ranks them 1,2 3 etc. in order of need. There is no limit on the number of applications he/she can present for consideration. You may also submit a narrative and pictures if desired. They will be not submitted with your application.

He/She sends the ranked applications to the Director of Connectional Ministries *by July 1, 2011*. Late applications or applications submitted by individual churches instead of the District Superintendent will not be considered. No exceptions.

- **How does the Conference Selection Committee function?**
The Conference Selection Committee is composed of the Director of Connectional Ministries, who will chair the committee, the Chair of the Missions Committee, Secretary of the Missions Team, and a Member-at-Large. They will review all the applications and select five (5) as the Holston Conference submission for the Renfro Grant. The Conference will submit the five applications in a package by the September 1, 2011 deadline.
- **Why is the Conference limited to only five applications?**
The SEJ Selection Committee wants to recommend the most needy viable church applicants to the SEJ Bishops who make the final selection. It is extremely difficult to do this from the mass of applications we receive without the inputs from District Superintendents and ranking from the Conference. With the new procedure the SEJ Selection Committee is assured that the District Superintendents and the Conference Selection Committee wholeheartedly support their five applicants. We will be using our limited funds wisely and well.
- **Who should I contact if I have questions about this new procedure?**
Contact Mat Merker at 423-478-0090 or 423-715-6042 or matmerker@aol.com, or Anne Travis at annetravis@holston.org