

Love Mercy Do Justice
A Mission Priority of
The Evangelical Covenant Church

LMDJ Ministry Development Grant
Grant Project Values

The mission of the Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ) ministry priority of the Evangelical Covenant Church is to join God in making things right in a broken world. From our inception, the Covenant has been concerned with helping hurting people (love mercy) and addressing the causes of that hurt (do justice). Our goal is to resource and equip the local church in its call to love, serve and work together with people at the margins towards holistic individual, family and community transformation.

The following values guide how LMDJ carries out its mission and thus evaluates grant requests and discerns how funds are allocated.

Biblical and Prophetic Witness toward the Kingdom of God

Engaging in ministry of both Word and deed (proclamation *and* demonstration, evangelism *and* biblical justice) is a prophetic signpost of the Kingdom of God; pointing others toward the one Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; the one in whom everything is being made new. Thus, the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit should serve as the primary sources of guidance and inspiration in discerning ministry opportunities, developing strategies and plans, setting measurable goals, and articulating outcomes.

Involvement and Empowerment of the local community

LMDJ believes that the overwhelming majority of the solutions for a community already exist within that community. Every neighborhood is full of potential, much of it unrecognized, unappreciated and untapped. Where possible, utilize resources already present in the community and focus on unleashing the potential of indigenous leaders.

Celebrating and Serving alongside Image bearers at the margins

LMDJ strives to recognize, affirm, and celebrate the God-given dignity of those most likely to have that dignity denied or overlooked. We seek to fund ministry strategies that achieve this standard. Thus, we place a strong emphasis on a demonstrable mutuality in mission (working with/alongside rather than *doing for* the community) from the very beginning of the ministry development process.

Transformative Justice

LMDJ affirms the need for transformation of the whole individual, family and community. To that end, we resist the division between the ‘spiritual’ and the ‘physical’ and encourage the development of a fully integrated ministry vision seeking holistic transformation. This is done most effectively by addressing root causes and focusing on systemic issues, not just symptoms. We encourage identifying sustainable strategies and developing a continuum of compassion, mercy, and justice ministries which have clear pathways toward deeper systemic engagement.

Congregational Partnership

LMDJ works alongside the local church, helping it to foster collaborative connections with individuals, community organizations, and institutions. Demonstrating such collaborative partnerships/intentions helps ensure greater effectiveness and reach.