“… be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well” (2 Timothy 2:1-2).

The grace of our Lord Jesus can make strong and multiplying disciples, leaders, churches, and classes. As a church-planting leader of the early church, Paul saw the power of the family tree of faith spreading out to the third and fourth generations, its impact increasing with exponential growth.

Paul is our inspiration to shift the RCA’s current reality where:

- Five classes (out of approximately 45) have produced 55 percent of our plants.
- Fourteen classes have produced 82 percent of our plants.
- Thirty classes have planted only once or not planted since 1999.

The RCA Church Multiplication team wants to come alongside your classis leaders and churches to empower exponential growth and impact in a deep and permanent way. As a result, new parent churches will rise up, propelling new planters who will reflect and carry the gospel to others.

To this end, the RCA offers a classis capacity grant. For one year, the RCA will offer start-up funding to help guide leaders and systems toward best practices in church multiplication. With this support, classes can reap the following benefits:

- Your classis can revitalize its church multiplication strategies and see more new plants in three years than you might have seen in the past 20.
- The RCA will help some of your congregations become reproducing churches that expand into plants of their own.
- The RCA will attend to quality-control systems and reporting structures so you can be confident as you grow a culture of expansion for the gospel in your classis, reaching out to those who have yet to know Christ.

The RCA will approve up to four classis capacity grants per year, as determined by the Church Multiplication team. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis during the year.
The following is an overview of how funding will be applied to grant recipients throughout the church planting process:

**Phase one: Creating the church planting team and systems**

*In this phase, the church planting team will be established, systems will be created, and the team will receive training. The total given from the RCA for this phase is $10,000, with an additional required $6,000 contribution from the classis.*

- **Identify a church-planting champion ($6,000):** This part-time, paid staff role is dedicated to leading the team that will pursue several skills and objectives in multiplication. Having a passionate leader with dedicated time for the task is a best practice for starting and sustaining a successful church multiplication team. The church planting champion will be paid $1,000 per month for an average of ten hours a week of focused time. The RCA will invest $6,000 and the classis contribution of $6,000 makes up the $12,000 total for the first year.

- **Train the church planting champion ($3,000):** The champion learns best practices in assessment for planters, including the ISA, CPP and Ridley assessments ($1,000); receives coaching ($500); and gains the ability to lead Multiply Training for planters ($1,500). The RCA funds this $3,000 and walks with the leader in attaining these skills to reproduce in others. Other tools, print and online resources, learning relationships, and orientation to RCA grants and support systems will be shared with the champion.

- **Build a church multiplication team (CMT) ($1,000):** A key responsibility of the champion in the first months of work is to recruit and gather a passionate and capable team of 2-5 other leaders. That team will participate in a vision retreat with RCA staff, who will help build a vision frame (Church Unique) and the start of a sustainable 4-E system (Engage planters, Equip leaders, Empower mission, and Expand parent churches and missional structures). The team will create a reporting system for sharing with the larger classis, encourage prayer and spiritual empowerment, populate oversight teams for plants (sometimes called pre-consistories), and enlist parent churches. The RCA provides $1,000 to support the team’s meetings and objectives.

- **Formulate other objectives:** These additional objectives could include mobilized prayer for the CMT, quality communication, oversight teams for church plants, risk analysis, creation of 4-E systems to support planters and their spouses, a reporting system with qualitative data and quality controls in place, and/or alignment with the RCA (i.e. New Congregation Plan completed, church organizing in three to five years, and credentialing of the church planter according to the *Book of Church Order*).
Phase two: Beginning to multiply
In this phase, the RCA will provide additional funds to help the CMT begin the church multiplication movement in their classis. The RCA will grant up to $12,500, with the classis contributing $2,000 if it is seeking the small church grant.

- **First church plant grant ($8,500):** The RCA will give an incentive grant of up to $8,500 to a parent church in your classis for the start of a new church plant. The church plant must have an accepted New Congregation Plan (NCP). If there are multiple church plants, this amount can be divided up in a proportion determined by the classis' CMT.

- **Small church grant ($4,000):** The RCA will also give a small church grant to help a church with fewer resources be a part of reproduction and to be a role model for others. This is reserved for a church with less than 180 people in average worship attendance. The RCA will give $4,000 and the classis will also invest $2,000 for a total of $6,000. Planting can be done in collaboration with other churches or by using a lower cost model (bi-vocational planter, missional community micro-church, rural planting, house church network, etc.). An approved NCP is required for this grant.

**Classis capacity grant details**

**Goal:** The classis will develop a church multiplication team, establish a vision, secure resources, recruit and prepare parent churches, create oversight teams, conduct risk analysis, and develop systems for assessment, training, and coaching.

**Total grant monies:** $22,500 in targeted objectives.

- **Phase 1:** $10,000 (with additional $6,000 classis contribution)
- **Phase 2:** Up to $12,500 (with possible additional $2,000 classis contribution)

**Total classis contributions:** Up to $8,000. A classis that is approved for the classis capacity grant must invest up to $8,000 to be used in the first year of development to make a sustainable plan for future church planting.

**Additional benefits:**

- Significant RCA Church Multiplication staff time and travel expenses are included.
- Up to $25,000 from a menu of 12 micro-grants is possible for every new church start.

**Evaluation:** There will be a progress review every six months to ensure a fully functioning church multiplication team within the classis. This review period offers a good opportunity to increase collaboration with or support from the RCA, or to re-strategize as needed.

**Application:** The application places you in consideration for the entire grant amount, totaling $22,500. If you are selected for the grant, you will receive the initial $10,000 for phase one. Upon completion of phase one, the RCA will disburse the remaining relevant funding of up to $12,500. Application forms are available by emailing multiply@rca.org.