Technology In Ministry Peer Learning Groups

An initiative of
the Center for Congregational Resources at Samford University (CCR) and
The Alabama Baptist (TAB)

The purpose of Technology In Ministry (TIM) groups is to help participating churches develop and implement strategies for outreach, inreach, discipleship ministry, and missions using smartphone technology. Each TIM group is intended to be a peer learning experience. Each participant will bring to the group insights from their first-hand experience using the technology in their church. When problems are encountered, other participants can help provide solutions and/or work together to resolve them. After the initial training meetings conducted by the CCR and TAB, TIM groups meet as many times as participants want/need. It is hoped that groups will continue meeting at least periodically to share ideas, relate individual church's experiences, and to encourage each church in their work.

Here's what we will be offered to your associations and the churches participating in TIM groups:
1. The CCR and TAB will provide training in how to use the technology. This will include training in how to use the equipment; TAB will offer content that includes training in social media use, using web sites for marketing, branding for communication, and related topics.
2. The CCR will receive grant requests from participating TIM churches and will make awards of funds to help purchase equipment and resources needed by the churches to implement their strategies and plans. Grants will be for as much as $1350 per church.
3. Judicatory and/or Association offices in need of equipment to implement this technology may apply for grants from the CCR for as much as $1350 to purchase equipment.
4. Ongoing consultative support from the CCR and TAB will be provided as TIM churches implement their plans

Here's what is required of churches participating in TIM groups:
1. Each church's representatives commit to attend periodic TIM group meetings. The first few meetings (typically 3) will be facilitated by the CCR and TAB. At least two additional meetings should be held by the group for purposes of ongoing training, problem solving and learning from each other as participating churches implement their chosen strategies.
2. A focus group interview with the TIM group will be held in the fall. The purpose of the interview is to gather feedback from participants on the impact of the TIM initiative in their churches. Participants agree to attend the interview in person or provide a written report to the CCR.