



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* INDIANAPOLIS

Mission Strategy: Congregational Development Grants

The Bishop's Committee on Mission Strategy invites you to consider ways that your church is called to engage in mission. The 2022 diocesan budget includes \$150,000 for local initiatives related to congregational development. Grants are for one year. You may apply for an extension of a year to use the funds. Grant applications will be considered twice a year: August 30th and February 15th. Direct cash aid to congregations to support operating is a separate process and questions regarding this should be directed towards Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale.

Prerequisite for grantees: College for Congregational Development (CCD) training is a prerequisite for each congregation applying for a grant. Our diocese offers this training each summer and other dioceses offer it at various times during the year. For more information, please go to <https://www.cdcollege.org>. Financial assistance is available for congregations attending CCD; please contact Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale for more information.

Grant Orientation: The committee will offer an orientation by Zoom on June 2, 2022 at 7pm EDT/6pm CDT, to respond to questions, assist with grant writing, and provide additional support. You can access the Zoom orientation on June 2 [at this link](#). The orientation will be recorded and made available upon request. Please contact Valeria Phillips at commonshores@yahoo.com to learn more.

Proposals should fit into one of these three categories:

- **Making New Disciples:** Encouraging and equipping both existing congregations and creating new ministries for us to meet new people, to offer God’s invitation and welcome into a community of faith, and to make new disciples. This work particularly targets groups of people currently under-represented in our Diocese, including youth and young adults, disabled persons, people identifying as members of LGBTQIA+ communities, people of color, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and people with little or no church background or involvement.
- **Targeted Strategic Collaborations:** Incentivizing and promoting collaborations among and between diocesan congregations and ministries, within our diocesan neighborhoods, and with ecumenical partners.
- **Holy Endings/New Beginnings:** Helping congregations to choose with grace and dignity when it is time to end their current forms of gathering and doing ministry, to say goodbye well, and to then open themselves for Resurrection and new life. Assisting congregations and ministries that are financially unsustainable at present to develop sustainable patterns of ministry built around their gifts and mission so that they can thrive in new ways.

Ideas to inspire as you imagine what might fit best for your context:

Community Evangelism with Intentional Invitation: Where are the places that people gather in your community and how can you meet people there to spread the good news? Bring us your ideas to reach out beyond your walls to invite new people into your congregation. Begin by getting to know your neighborhood and building relationships with the people who live there. Then create a bold strategy to invite them in. (Making New Disciples)

Missional Communities: Think about God’s mission beyond the walls of the church. What are the needs around you and what opportunities do you see in marrying your strengths with their needs or centers of energy? How might you reach out to form a new center of the community in your area? Bring us your ideas for developing a missional community. (Possibly Making New Disciples, Targeted Strategic Collaborations, or Holy Endings/New Beginnings)

Second sites: Is there an area of high population growth in which there is not an Episcopal presence? A congregation or multiple congregations may investigate a new start or form a second campus. A grant could support resources (space rental, staff time, staff and lay leader development) to start a second site in a nearby town or other side of town where there is no Episcopal Church. (Making New Disciples and/or Holy Endings/New Beginnings)

Lay Leader Empowerment: Are there ways to strengthen the skills and faith of the lay leaders to enhance their impact on a community? If lay leaders were trained to assume responsibility for Christian education or pastoral care or share in the preaching on a regular basis, would this free staff time to be more active in community organizations and partnerships? Could a church shift to empower members to lead the majority of the ministry in a way that would only require a supply priest, toward a more financially sustainable church? Could lay leaders be trained to lead small groups, offering groups specifically geared to the under-represented groups (a group at a community college, a group for LGBTQIA high schoolers, a group of professionals of color). (Possibly Making New Disciples, Targeted Strategic Collaborations, or Holy Endings/New Beginnings)

Justice-Oriented: Is your congregation interested in being stronger advocates for social change? Is a group willing to be trained in community organizing and commit to partner with a local group to advocate for change in the community? In what ways might your congregation connect its worship and public presence to social justice, enhancing and making connections with new people? (Targeted Strategic Collaboration)

Collaboration for Ministry: Could several churches partner together on hiring a staff position for communications or youth ministry or advocacy work and share not just the salary of the position but in programming and planning. (Targeted Strategic Collaboration)

Bring us your idea!