

New Ventures in Community Ministry Committee Report for Convention 2022

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you about the work being done through the New Ventures in Community Ministry. Before we get started, I want to thank those who worked on the committee with me, Sondra Kekec, and Carol Wesley. Once again, this was a committee with diverse backgrounds and I believe this helped us to be especially thoughtful in our decisions.

For those who are not familiar, I wanted to give a quick overview of the mission, history, and sources of funding for the New Ventures in Community Ministry.

First, the mission of the Diocesan Outreach Endowment Fund through the *New Ventures in Community Ministries Grants* is to inspire congregations to dare great things for God by developing new ministries and visions in response to changing social needs throughout the diocese.

The Diocesan Outreach Endowment Fund was established as a result of the generosity of Missouri Episcopalians through pledges to the Making All Things New Capital Campaign. Its purpose was to challenge congregations to make a difference where they are and to improve the quality of life in and with their communities, to identify pressing social needs and to design strategies to meet those needs.

This work is to be accomplished by funding grants which are meant to support projects involving new ministries and new visions in the neighborhoods of poverty, in the city, and in small communities and rural areas. These projects (which may include new aspects of existing

programs, as well as entirely new projects) are to be do-able, manageable, replicable, and sustainable by congregations.

A grant request is a two-step process in which the committee used the following thought process based on the mission and guidelines of the Outreach Endowment Fund.

- First, the project had to be new, or a new aspect of an existing project. As such, we also considered projects that were making a second year request for a project that had already received its first year of funding.
- We looked for projects that serve the poor, the needy, the lonely and disconnected, the aging, children and youth, and the suffering
- We wanted to make sure the projects were do-able, that is, we believed it was highly likely that the project could be successfully completed with the funds provided and when successful, it could be replicated by other churches
- Lastly, the project had to be sustainable. We wanted to make sure there was a reasonable plan in place that the project would continue beyond the first year, and that the New Ventures grant would give them the help needed to get the project started.

During 2022, Diocesan Council updated the grant request process to allow for grant requests to be made at times other than the standard grant cycle. This gives the Council flexibility to consider grant requests that are time sensitive in nature. The intent is for this provision to only be used in extenuating circumstances and is not intended to become an alternative process.

I also wanted to give a brief overview on the funding source for New Venture's grants and please allow me to summarize. In 2021 a resolution was passed by Diocesan Council allowing for 5% of the market value of the corpus based on a 3-year rolling average be used to

fund grants, this was a change from the previous approach of only the earnings in the fund being available. This has given Diocesan Council additional funds thereby allowing them the opportunity to answer the needs of many different programs. As a final comment, any unused funds from a given year roll forward and are available for use in the following year.

At last year's convention there were 4 grant recipients and I wanted to update you on their status:

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ferguson received a 2nd year grant to continue their work on the Invite, Welcome, Connect Ministry and to change how people are attracted to the Church.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church also received a 2nd year grant to continue their efforts to improve the health and well-being of African Americans by mobilizing the faithful in a neighborhood health coalition.

We were also pleased to fund the Trinity Food Ministry in their outdoor hand washing stations that are fixed and self-contained with fresh water. They were also going to utilize portable sanitizer stations to help meet the needs of the surrounding population.

Lastly, we were excited to fund Holy Communion's Grace Gathering program. The initiative was to provide a worship space and service celebrating the diverse abilities of all and to provide worship services for those who might otherwise be excluded because of special needs.

Now for the 2022 grant year. This year we received 6 Phase I grant requests, all were invited to participate in Phase II, and I am excited to announce that Diocesan Council has approved the granting of over \$100,000 to these programs. The program recipients are as follows:

The first recipient is St. Paul's, St. Louis who requested funds to start their La Misa program. This endeavor, in conjunction with the National Church's Try Tank will create a contact point for the community of Hispano, Nueva Latina an Americanizado neighbors in the area. They will begin this new ministry with meals, worship and music.

St. Vincent-in-the-Vineyard also wants to create an outreach program for visitors to the Missouri wine country. They plan to reach out to the guests of Chaumette with a welcoming gift and information, along with an invitation to join them for Sunday services and lunch. They will also attend festivals in the area offering a shaded spot to rest and a cold bottle of water.

The Jubilee Ministry is going to start the "Just Food Truck". They want to bring food to those most in need through this portable ministry. This will be a way to get food to the areas which are most in need, to food deserts where there are no stationary programs, and to those who are unable to access existing programs because of physical, economical or transportation restraints.

All Saint's Farmington is creating an "Uplift Sunday Dinner" ministry to serve a dinner and provide socialization to the residents of the Uplift Center. The Center provides temporary housing to 60 homeless individuals. The requested funds will be used to purchase equipment and supplies necessary to provide one meal a month for the next calendar year.

The African Church Plant ministry has requested a grant to serve members of the African Diaspora, be they active Episcopalians, members of other denominations, or unchurched. They want to serve the population seeking an African style of worship and have requested a grant to help with the musical aspects of the project. This ministry will be housed at Christ Church Cathedral.

Lastly, Christ Church Rolla has requested a 2nd year grant (the original grant was in 2020) to expand and continue with it's Back Door Ministry. In this ministry they provide backpacks, toiletries, basic clothing needs, and even flashlights to the homeless and poor who literally come to the backdoor seeking assistance.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the 2022 grant recipients and thank this body for their time and attention.

Respectfully submitted by:

Liz Yount

NVCM 2022 Chair