

The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania – Growth Development Fund Grants Available for Church Capital Projects

During Bishop Gutiérrez's pilgrimage, it was discovered that several congregations needed small to medium capital improvements to expand their capacity for ministry, hospitality, and community engagement. For some churches this meant a renovation to a room for youth; repairing an old HVAC system; improving access with handicapped ramps; repaving the parking lot; or replacing old windows with new energy-efficient ones.

Unfortunately, many of the congregations that shared these needs did not have the funds to undertake such a project. In response, the Bishop has created The Growth Development Fund to help parishes making such improvements.

Here is information on grants from the Fund:

- It is a nine-year program.¹
- Grants are for deferred maintenance that will enhance a church's capacity for ministry or the need for capital improvement.
- Determinations will be made based both on an evaluation of the urgency of the need and the potential impact it may have on the congregation's life and ministry.
- Awards will be for projects under \$30,000. A church that receives a grant will be expected to report the following year on the progress of its enhanced ministry and the effect on the congregation.
- For Round 6 (2022), applications are being accepted from August 1, 2022 – October 3, 2022. **Apply Now.** See application below. Churches that need help filling out the grant application can contact Canon Doug Horner, dhorner@diopa.org
- Awards are **not** made on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Churches that do not receive a grant in prior years do not need to apply the following year. Any church wishing to have their application re-considered needs to email Canon Doug Horner, dhorner@diopa.org, to confirm their prior years application be re-considered and declare any change in project scope or timing from the original application.
- Once you receive a grant in this program you cannot apply for another one.

Awards will be announced November 1, 2022.

¹To make these investments in churches, the Diocese will withdraw from unrestricted endowment funds, over and above their normal distribution, up to \$300,000 each year for nine years, with a maximum total of \$2.7 million. Withdrawals will be made annually and placed in a designated fund for distribution. Unused funds will be carried over to the following year.

Application for the Growth Development Fund

If you wish to apply for a grant please answer the following questions, using additional pages if necessary. Please also provide the following documentation as listed

1. The church's name and address

2. The name and contact information for a designated point person

3. Description of the Project:

What is the proposed project?

How much will it cost?

What is an approximate breakdown of how the fund will be spent: Labor? Materials? Etc.?

What is the timeline for its completion?

4. How will this project contribute to the growth, life, and mission of the church?

5. A copy of the following:

- a) The most recent parochial report
- b) The most recent financial reports – Balance Sheet & Income Statement
- c) The most recent annual budget with current year to date figures
- d) Minutes of the Vestry meeting indicating approval of the proposed project

6. Written endorsement of Dean of the congregation's Deanery

Please submit all materials to Canon Doug Horner at dhorne@diopa.org. Applications will be forwarded to the special subcommittee of Diocesan Council which will review them make recommendations to the Bishop for approval.