

R2024-03: Redefining Congregational Life Projects

Whereas there is a continuing need to financially support our existing Episcopal communities, *and*

Whereas Canon XVI, section 22 authorizes the closed congregation fund to be used for Congregational Life project; *therefore, be it*

Resolved, that funds from the Closed Congregation Fund of the Diocese be used by the Church Foundation to fund matching new money grants for building repairs on our existing congregations; *and be it further*

Resolved, that R2023-01: Congregational Life Projects, be repealed.

Explanation

The use of closed congregation funds as required by Canon XVI, Section 22 states that all liquidated assets of a closed congregation shall be under the control of the Trustees of the diocese. This fund is known as the "closed congregation fund" and its expenditures are subject to the interpretation of what constitutes a "Congregational Life project." Resolution 2023-01 allowed COCL to use the money in the Closed Congregation Fund for New Episcopal Communities. Since the diocese no longer has a missioner for new Episcopal communities on staff, there is little need for this.

The Church Foundation of the Diocese is an appropriate place to use these funds since they are charged with the properties of the diocese. The requests for grants in 2024 exceed \$1 million and far outweigh the amount of money allocated to the Church Foundation in the budget process. The use of these funds would support our existing Episcopal communities so they could maintain their current structures creating more attractive facilities for potential new members.

The distribution of these funds can only be done as a matching grant for new monies received. For example, if the Church Foundation was to award a \$50,000 grant from these funds, the congregation would need to raise in new matching donations of \$50,000. If the congregation raised less than the grant amount the awarded amount would equal the monies raised. This type of matching award causes the congregation to get personally involved in the restoration of their property. It can breathe new life into a congregation.

Impact

This matching grant will have an impact on congregations creating a new sense of pride in the parish property. A parish that meets the fundraising goal will see new life be breathed back into it so that the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ can continue.

There is no financial impact to the diocesan budget. This resolution utilizes a designated fund of the diocese, which has been sitting around for years not being disbursed. It would have an impact to the monies sitting in the designated fund in that they would be used in our existing congregations for repair work.

Presented by

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