

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Respectfully submitted by Spencer Izor (St. Paul's, Oakwood), Chair

Regarding our mission and work -

Episcopal Community Ministries (ECM) is a major source of grants for the Diocese of Southern Ohio (DSO) congregational outreach ministries. Churches in our diocese are encouraged to apply for ministries that meet human need in their local communities. The purpose of these grants is to empower congregations to put their faith into action by expressing their Baptismal Covenant through hands-on volunteer commitments to serving their neighbors in need. The ministries awarded ECM grants are adhering to our theological mandate to “do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.” (Micah 6:8).

ECM is funded by proceeds from the Blanchard Foundation and direct donations from individuals, congregations, and foundations. On occasion, special grants such as the Covid Emergency Grant (2021 matching grant) and the Food Insecurity Grant (2023), the Bishop donated money from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Diocesan funds do not support ECM.

ECM FUNDS HOPE:

- hope that our neighbors in need feel nourished, both physically and spiritually, by the love and compassion of local church volunteers who are putting their faith into action
- hope that our volunteers feel inspired and emboldened collaborating with other churches, community groups and non-profit organizations, believing that they can address both immediate needs and systemic problems
- hope that no matter how dire problems may seem, our congregations have faith that there are solutions to these problems, inspiring and supporting each other in the living out of our Baptismal Covenant through active, generous, and committed service
- hope that our congregations feel valued and recognized by the DSO for the inspirational work they do in their communities
- hope that our donors feel that they can make a significant difference supporting outreach ministries

Regarding our diocesan funding and how funds were deployed -

In 2024 the ECM Committee awarded \$63,750 in February and \$48,00 in July. An additional \$6,000 will be held to disburse to 2 ministries for 2025.

Advent, Cincinnati
Free Fridge
\$750
Food Ministry

Advent, Cincinnati
Good News Garden
\$3,000
Community Garden

Advent, Cincinnati
Open Door Pantry & Cafe
\$3,000
Food Ministry + Services

All Saints, New Albany
Garden for All
\$2500
Community Garden

All Saints, Pleasant Ridge
Summer Saints
\$5,000
Learning Support

Epiphany, Nelsonville
Community Dinner, Blessing Box, Sack
Lunches, Clothing
\$3,000
Food & Fellowship Ministry & Clothing
Ministry

Good Samaritan, Amelia
Food Pantry & Clothing Closet
\$2,500
Food Ministry & Clothing Ministry

Good Shepherd, Athens
Sharing Cabinet & 1st Wed. Lunch
\$2,500
Food Ministry & Student Outreach

Grace, Cincinnati
Community Dinner & Pantry
\$5,000
Food & Fellowship Ministry

Our Saviour, Cincinnati
Food Ministries
\$5,000

Food Ministry, 3 pantries weekly

Our Saviour, Cincinnati
Transformations
\$5,000
Immigrant Services & Learning Support

St. John, Columbus
Nourishing Earth, Body & Soul (NEBS)
\$5,000
Food & Fellowship Ministry,
Homeless Support

St. Mark, Columbus
Appalachian Ministry
\$5,000
Clothing, personal care, infant layette,
school supplies

St. Patrick, Dublin
CATCH Freedom
\$3,000
Trafficked Women Recovery
Support /Supplies Fellowship

St. Paul, Logan
Feeding & Clothing Ministry
\$5,000
Food Ministry & Clothing Ministry

St. Peter, Gallipolis
Loaves & Fishes
\$1,500
Food & Fellowship Ministry
Community Dinner & Blessing Box

Trinity, Columbus
In the Garden
\$5,000
Food & Fellowship Ministry, Homeless
Support

Trinity, Troy
Torrence Medical Fund
\$2,500
Community Medical Needs

Summer 2024:

Advent, Cincinnati

Good News Garden \$4,000 Community Garden - Moving garden to church grounds & expanding	\$2,000 Blessing Box, Community Library & Garden
Advent, Cincinnati Walnut Hills Free Fridge \$2,500 Food Ministry - Enlarging blessing box	St. John, Worthington Friendship Dinner Ministry \$3,000 Food & Fellowship
Advent, Cincinnati Open Door Pantry & Cafe \$3,000 Food & Fellowship Ministry + Services	St. Mary, Hillsboro Soup's On \$2,500 Food & Fellowship
All Saints, New Albany Garden for All, Thompson Rd Expansion \$2,500 Community Garden - expanding program	St. Stephen, Columbus Neighborhood Services \$3,000 Food Ministry - Pantry
Christ Church, Dayton CityHeart \$4,000 Emergency Services, Homeless Support Services	Trinity, London CATCH Freedom \$3,000 Trafficked Women Recovery Support
Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati Queen City Street Choir \$5,000 Music Ministry, Food & Fellowship Ministry, Homeless Support Services	<i>Two summer programs unable to run as planned. The committee voted to put aside 2024 funds to be disbursed in June 2025 pending confirmation that the programs are running.</i>
Grace, Cincinnati Our Beloved Kids \$5,000 Youth at Risk Food & Fellowship Ministry Student Support & Mentoring	St. Philip, Columbus Community Youth Outreach Summer Reading Readiness \$3,000 Youth at Risk, Learning Support
Grace, Pomeroy Steve Story Shoe Voucher Ministry \$3,500 Youth at Risk - Shoes & School Supplies	St. Philip, Columbus Community Youth Outreach Life Skills, Budgets and Food \$3,000 Youth at Risk, Learning Support
St. Anne, West Chester Spencer's Laundry Ministry \$3,600 Social Support Service & Fellowship	
St. Edward of Whitehall, Columbus Community Ministry	

Regarding our charge for wide representation in ministry -

It is a continuing struggle to recruit ethnically and geographically diverse members, but we are making progress. In previous years, when meetings were held at the Diocesan house, the committee was Cincinnati-centric. It has been easier to recruit volunteers now that meetings are held on zoom. Our committee members are from the following congregations:

Calvary, Cincinnati

Christ Church, Dayton

Christ Church, Ironton & All Saints, Portsmouth (clergy at 2 churches)

Epiphany, Nelsonville

St. John, Lancaster & St. Paul, Chillicothe & St. Paul, Logan & St Philip, Circleville (clergy at 4 churches)

St. John, Worthington

St. Margaret, Trotwood

St. Paul, Oakwood

St. Stephen, Columbus

Missions and parishes are represented; urban, suburban and rural churches are represented; large congregations and small congregations are represented.

Regarding our goals for 2025 and our connection to the emerging mission and vision of the diocese -

The ECM and its members will continue to lean into their baptismal covenant and support the emerging mission and vision of the diocese by abundantly equipping parishes and ministries with the resources needed to support flourishing congregations.