



Episcopal Diocese of Washington

2016 Congregational Growth Grants Background and Summary

With an increase in parish contributions to the diocese, it is able to rely less on funds from the Soper Trust for operations and instead allocate them for congregational ministry and growth. Since Bishop Mariann's call for parishes to meet a tithes (10% of the annual net operating income), pledges to the diocese have steadily increased. In 2016, there was \$160,000 available for Congregational Growth Grants.

A committee of diocesan Council and staff reviewed the applications and presented a final slate to Council for approval.

The diocese received six applications for a total of \$74,200 in the first round of grants. Five grants totalling \$52,000 were awarded in June, 2016.

- Christ Church in La Plata and Christ Church in Wayside were awarded \$3,000 for collaborative "Mass on the Grass," an outdoor, midweek worship service held on summer evenings.
- St. Paul's on K Street and St. Patrick's in the District were awarded a \$10,000 collaborative grant to revitalize the campus ministry at George Washington University.
- Church of the Epiphany in Forestville, Christ Church in Clinton, St. Barnabas, Leeland in Upper Marlboro and St. Christopher's in New Carrollton were awarded \$10,000 to collaborate on quarterly events that use jazz and hip hop to reach out to young adults and families in Prince George's County.
- Ascension and St. Agnes in the District was awarded \$9,000 to develop a monthly contemplative casual alternative to contemporary praise worship.
- Church of the Ascension in Gaithersburg was awarded \$20,000 to expand outreach to the Spanish speaking community in its immediate neighborhood and Montgomery College.

The diocese received 13 applications for a total of \$203,235 in the second round of grants. Four grants totalling \$57,600 were awarded in December 2016.

- St. Peter's Poolesville was awarded \$7,800 to establish a ministry focused on building relationships in its community.
- Central Montgomery County was awarded a \$20,000 collaborative grant to develop regional youth leaders.
- Churches in South Montgomery County and North DC were awarded \$10,000 to collaborate on youth formation.
- Atonement in the District was awarded \$19,800 to host job trainings for local teens and young adults.

In total, \$109,600 was awarded in 2016 to almost 30 parishes. Total requests were for \$277,435.