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1. VISION, MISSION & MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF KENTUCKY

A. GOD’S VISION—OUR VISION
We take as our starting point the proclamation of God’s vision, which Jesus made in the synagogue in Capernaum:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

God wants freedom proclaimed to the oppressed, healing to the brokenhearted, the good news of the Gospel lived out in our lives. In Jesus—his life, work and ministry—God’s vision was and is incarnated.

As disciples of Jesus, therefore, His vision becomes our vision: to bring the healing and wholeness of God’s kingdom to all with whom we come in contact. We are to live with “the Spirit of the Lord” upon us. We are the ones sent to proclaim God’s good news.

Throughout history God has led, guided, and loved His people. We believe God is leading and guiding us today and will give us “discerning and inquiring hearts” as we seek to carry out His vision for the Kingdom in our area of Kentucky. As we have experienced God’s love for us, we are called to express God’s love to others in ways they can experience it for themselves. God continues to hope and work for the fulfillment of His vision, and therefore we must continue to hope and work for it.

Note: In 2006, Trustees and Council adopted the following Vision and Mission Statement for the Diocese of Kentucky: “The Diocese of Kentucky is called to engage the world as a witness to Christ through worship, study, fellowship, evangelism, social justice, and service.” A shorter version is “Embracing Christ, Engaging the World.”

B. WHAT WE MEAN BY “MISSION”
“Mission” means “sending”—our being sent out into our communities as the people of God. When this fundamental theological word is used in relation to “mission funding,” the misunderstanding often arises that we are referring only to congregations of “mission”—versus “parish”—canonical status.

In this handbook, “mission” refers to whatever we seek to do to respond to God’s Vision for us.

“Mission Funding” refers to the Diocese’s process of giving financial assistance to any congregation—or diocesan organization in this Diocese which has a clear plan for a mission project or initiative.

C. MISSION FUNDING REQUIRES KNOWING & RESPONDING TO THE MISSION CONTEXT
“The world is waiting to see that Christianity possesses what it professes and that what it possesses it gives of freely.” --Samir Kafity, retired Bishop of Jerusalem
Given our mission context in Kentucky, we know that there are God-hungry people in our communities, and we know we have something of deep value to offer them. Among the denominations in our region, the Episcopal Church has a unique understanding of the grace and forgiveness of God. We need to spread the message about, and invite others to share in God’s grace and forgiveness.

Our mission context is therefore the reality of the lives of people and communities in our area of Kentucky. What we do in mission and ministry must respond to the real human needs and concerns of the people in our communities. Knowing our mission context gives us a solid understanding of the opportunities and challenges for mission in our local areas.

The Diocese of Kentucky is committed to funding mission initiatives which clearly and directly respond to the mission context out of which the initiative arises.

D. THE DIOCESE’S MISSION GOALS

1. Encourage and Support the Development of Vital Congregations
   - Help our congregations identify and understand the needs and ministry opportunities within their communities;
   - Help our congregations develop the mission and ministry programs to meet those needs;
   - Assist in identifying resources for new and on-going ministry programs;
   - Create a collaborative partnership with congregations that goes beyond mere financial support and clergy deployment;
   - Help congregations apply principles of evangelism and strategies for congregational development to their own particular situations;
   - Provide training opportunities for members of congregations;
   - Offer “formation for ministry” programs on a regional basis “to equip the saints for the work of ministry”; and
   - Work on-site with congregations.

2. Use our Diocesan Financial Resources in Mission Opportunities Where They Will Be Most Effective
   - Strategically target how to make strong congregations in prime mission fields even stronger;
   - Find creative ways of supporting mission in congregations which appear to have limited opportunities for congregational growth; and
   - Provide a means by which congregations are accountable for financial assistance

3. Discern and Plan to Meet Mission needs and Opportunities in Our Region
   - Explore opportunities for diocesan-level mission and ministry projects
   - Mission stations
   - New mission starts
   - Ministry development
   - Regional ministry
   - Redevelopment of existing congregations
   - Deal with the mission needs of our region
o Expand our Diocesan strategy/planning beyond the places where we currently have congregations
o Expand our Diocesan mission beyond current congregational constraints
• Propose some priorities for strategic mission
  o In areas where no Episcopal congregation currently exists
  o In “mission stations” at existing congregations
  o Specialized mission/ministry in areas of diversity
2. CRITERIA FOR MISSION FUNDING

The following criteria are among the components the Diocesan Mission Funding Committee will use to evaluate an application for project funding. Please note that while separate applications exist for Congregations and for Agencies, the term “Congregation” in the text below refers to any organizational unit of the Diocese—parish, mission, department, committee, commission, regional area ministry, new mission start, diocesan mission station, school or church-related institution, etc. Likewise, the term “Project” refers to any proposal for a new or continuing mission initiative or ministry for which funding is requested.

A. Vision & Mission
Does the project connect with and relate to the Diocesan Vision and the Diocese’s Mission goals? Does it relate to the congregation’s own Vision Statement and Mission Plan—i.e., has the congregation done, or is it beginning to do, the work of clearly laying out its own vision and mission goals?

B. Context
Does the project respond creatively to local opportunities and possibilities? Does it directly address and respond to clear mission needs in the congregation’s local community? Does the project involve and engage people and resources of the community? How will the project affect the congregation’s internal mission context, i.e., its membership, stewardship, and program life?

C. Design
Does the profile describe the project’s goals and objectives clearly? Are the goals and objectives measurable? Is the timetable realistic for completing and evaluating the project? Are the structures in place for accountability and reporting on the project’s outcome?

D. Funding
What level of help does the congregation need in order to fund the project? What has the congregation committed toward the project from its own financial resources? Are there other funding “partners” who might contribute to the project? Will the project develop a life of its own beyond the initial grant or loan period?

E. Innovation
How does the project represent a departure from standard procedure for the congregation? Will the project be of help as a learning experience for other congregations in the Diocese? How will those learnings be shared?

F. Resources
What non-financial resources might be helpful from the Diocese to complete the project?

In addition, the Committee will consider the overall set of projects for which funding is sought, the relative need of each congregation seeking funding, future opportunities and projects that may need funding in the future, and the funds available for each type of mission funding.
3. GENERAL TYPES OF MISSION FUNDING

A. MISSION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR EVANGELISM OUTREACH PROJECTS
These grants are intended for specific, mission-oriented projects, programs, and ministries to increase the congregation’s evangelical outreach to the local community. This is the area where every congregation in the Diocese is eligible and encouraged to dream. We are committed to providing the resources to help every congregation engage in, and be equipped for, evangelical outreach.

Some suggestions: You may
• have an opportunity for evangelism in a new population;
• need assistance in funding the congregation’s use of Percept tools and other resources to learn the composition of its community/
• need particular preparation for door-to-door or other evangelism methods—like printed materials or training;
• want to improve visibility in the community via communication methods: mailings, flyers, signs;
• want to start an ALPHA program to develop the faith of members & reach out to non-members;
• need Vacation Bible School materials for a VBS for parish and community children;
• need to try a new kind of outreach: telemarketing, a support group, a teen coffee house ministry;
• need to cover training costs to equip members for a specific ministry;
• need to buy new music books for a contemporary worship service.

B. MISSION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR STAFFING
Grants for staffing are made to assist a congregation to respond to mission needs in its community and move it to the next level of growth. Any staffing request must be tied directly to the development of a new mission start, the creation of a mission station, or any other mission initiative for which staffing is essential. By the second year of funding, those in charge of the mission project must meet with representatives of Mission and Evangelism and/or Mission Funding to make plans to become self-sustaining.

Staffing requests must be the result and outcome of a project and not the purpose itself.
4. THE MISSION FUNDING COMMITTEE

A. Who’s On the Committee
The Diocesan Mission Funding Committee is a subcommittee of Trustees & Council. Its membership has been appointed by Trustees & Council and includes clergy & lay leaders from across the Diocese, members of Trustees & Council, members of the Department of Mission and Evangelism, and members of the Diocesan Staff. The Bishop is an ex-officio member of the Committee and works closely with it.

B. When the Committee Meets
The Committee meets each summer to consider proposals. Other meetings are scheduled throughout the year as needed.

The deadline for grant requests for funding through the Diocesan Budget (and for renewal of such requests) is July 31, 2020.
5. HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Please note: If you are not sure what type of funding you should ask for, or under what category your request might fall, please contact the Chair of the Mission Funding Committee for assistance before you begin working on the application.

A. Please complete the **Mission Funding Application Form**. This is required for requests for new funding, as well as requests for renewal funding. The application is now available as a Google Form and meshes seamlessly with gmail. To have an application emailed to you, please request contact missionfunding@episcopalky.org. If you do not have access to the technology to complete this application online, please format your responses according to the hard-copy version, which is found on the Mission Funding web page.

In completing the application, please be thorough, but please also be concise. Please also be sure that the appropriate leadership supports your project.

B. Sign the **Covenant of Mission Form**. This is required for all requests for funding. A fully signed copy will be returned to you after the Committee (and Diocesan Convention when the funding is part of the Diocesan Budget) approves the application. If adjustments to the application are needed in order for it to be approved, a new Covenant of Mission Form will be sent to you for re-signing after the Committee meets.

C. Please submit the requested **financial** documents with your application. If you are working online and have trouble uploading the financial documents or the Covenant of Mission Form, please either email them or mail them to:

Mission Funding Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
425 S. 2nd Street, Suite 200
Louisville, KY 40202
missionfunding@episcopalky.org

Note:
1. Please honor the stated application deadline so that the Committee has sufficient time to review applications.
2. Except for clear emergencies, only those applications which are fully completed by the time the Committee meets to review applications will be considered. The Committee will do everything in its power to help you successfully complete the application.
3. Your timely completion of requested evaluation reports on the project will affect the Committee’s consideration of any future funding requests you may submit.
4. The Diocesan Controller will not be able to issue any grant funds without a fully signed Covenant of Mission Form.
6. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS

After the Mission Funding Committee, T&C, and Diocesan Convention (as appropriate) have acted positively on an application, the Chair will inform you of the schedule for evaluation and reporting on the project. In general, one or two reports will be requested.

THE REPORT:

Please reply as fully as possible to the following questions, referring back to your Project Application Form as needed.

1. Please describe how things are going and if your achieving the goals you intended. In your response, please reference (a) What project-related events and activities have occurred or are planned for the remainder of the year? (b) Who have you reached? (i.e. Your target audience? Another group?) (c) How is this project affecting the life of your agency? Of your community?
2. Please attach any materials (no more than 5 files) related to your response to the question above.
3. Please attach any existing metrics to date (no more than 1 file).
4. What are you learning? Have you had any surprises (good or bad), or unanticipated challenges?
5. Are you using any non-financial resources that may be helpful to other congregations in the Diocese?
6. Have there been any significant changes in your Vision/Mission or Mission Context since applying for the grant?
7. Have there been any significant changes in the Resources (financial and non-financial) available to you? If so, please explain briefly.

If you apply for renewal funding for the same project, you will also be asked to explore the following question:

If this is a similar (but not identical) project to the previous year, how and why is it different?

In your response, we are particularly looking for evidence that you are intentionally working toward greater local support for your project and are engaged in a process of visioning, long-range planning, and goal-setting.
7. CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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