

## **Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment**

27 February 2019

Zoom Meeting

Present: The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow, The Rev. Mike Michie, The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, Ms. Katie Forsyth, Ms. Natalie Finstad, The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Mr. Jason Evans, The Rev. Canon Ada Wong Nagata, The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey

Absent: The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, The Rev. Michael Sells, Dr. Gandhi Lopez, Ms. Caroline McCall, The Rev. Daniel Velez-Rivera, The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe

Noted: The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, The Rev. Eric Metoyer, and The Rev. Tom Brackett left the meeting before the subcommittee reports.

### Task Force Business

#### **Opening of Meeting**

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner opened the meeting with prayer and requested people to respond to the following question, "What is making your heart sing?" She then asked the group to approve the suggested agenda.

#### **Update on Church Planting from The Rev. Mike Michie**

The Task Force reviewed the Grant Applications for Church Planting. We noted that there was a shift in the terms of application - grantees are not required to have matching funds for the discernment or seed grants.

There was discussion on the implications of the wording of the, "dollar for dollar" requirement of matching funds. Members of the Task Force are concerned that the current wording will discourage less resourced dioceses from applying. In addition, the Task Force was not certain that current wording duly indicated the need for diocesan support. The REv. Canon Dan Morrow suggested the following language, "significant locally sourced appropriate funds."

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner suggested a provisional adoption of the Grant Applications Information Sheet and the Grant Applications pursuant to amending the language about required contributions. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde proposed the motion and the Rev. Eric Motenyer seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

The Rev. Mike Michie closed the presentation by sharing that the discernment weekend for Church Planters in March is fully booked. He also noted that we are planning a longer conference for mission developers in October.

### **Update from The Rev. Tom Brackett on the Work of Congregational Redevelopment with the Intention of Starting New Ministries**

The Rev. Tom Brackett expressed his gratitude to members of the Task Force for the time they are offering. He informed the Task Force that he has been meeting with bishops who are interested in being part of the *Missio Initiative* for congregational redevelopment this year. In those meetings he has been stressing that what makes this initiative unique from other redevelopment programs is that we are doing, "Intentional redevelopment with the intention of launching new ministries that are centered around the emerging New Americas and/or communities that have been historically underrepresented in the Episcopal Church."

The Rev. Tom Brackett then updated the Task Force on the timeline/next steps for the upcoming work:

- Currently in discussion with bishops who are interested in the Redevelopment Initiative
- April: Presentation at the House of Bishops Meeting during breakfast
- Public Sessions on the East and West Coast about the Redevelopment Initiative
- May: Orientation to Redevelopment Initiative
- Identify 3-5 dioceses with whom we will work intensely this year to curate learnings about how to best do redevelopment for the sake of new ministries (note that although we will work more intentionally with these 3-5 dioceses, the conferences and learning gatherings will be open to all)

The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne agreed to contact the Rev. Tom Brackett offline to talk about communications needs for the Redevelopment Initiative.

### **The Rev. Tom Brackett Shared about the Future Use of Microsoft Planner**

We will likely be using microsoft Planner for grant applications - members of the Task Force will be given access to this tool for our work and the Rev. Tom Brackett has requested that someone from the DFMS will train our Task Force on Microsoft Planner.

### **The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner Proposed Dates for Our Next In-Person Meeting.**

It is possible that we will meet in October to coincide with the gathering that the Rev. Mike Michie is hosting for mission developers. All were asked to keep their calendars open for this gathering. The Rev. Mike Michie mentioned that the grants subcommittee may need to have an additional gathering before October to review grants.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### Communications

The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne reported that the communications subteam has been working on the FAQ and Website information for mission development.

Ms. Natalie Finstad shared an update on our grounding theology and then received feedback from the group. She agreed to edit the current version of the theology and send it to the group for feedback the week of March 4th.

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner requested that members of the Task Force make time to read updates and material between meetings.

### Church Planting and Grants

Ms. Katie Forsyth reported that the granting subcommittee has been creating the grant applications and recruiting members to review submitted grant applications. Their next steps are to create a plan for dispersing the grants. They have also approached several non-members of the Task Force who have expertise in church planting (e.g. previous members of the Genesis group) to join as readers. Her team's next steps are to meet to plan how to review applications once they go live.

### Congregational Redevelopment

The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey reported that the majority of their work has to do with what the Rev. Tom Brackett reported earlier. In addition, the subcommittee will be attending cohort gatherings (online and in-person) to support the learning of this years participants in the Redevelopment Initiative.

### Strategy and Networking

The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow reported on the two key pieces of work that the subcommittee has been addressing:

- To provide ongoing, essential support to new Episcopal communities by weaving resources on stewardship and fundraising into every aspect of what we do
- To establish support (potentially an endowment) for church planting and congregational redevelopment so that funding for new ministries transcends the 3-year funding cycle of the TEC budget

## **The Meeting Concluded with Prayer Led by the Very Rev. Amy McCreath**

### **Summary of Votes Taken**

- The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner suggested a provisional adoption of the Grant Applications Information Sheet and the Grant Applications pursuant to amending the language about required contributions. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde proposed the motion and the Rev. Eric Motenyer seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

### **Action Items from the Meeting of the Task Force**

- Entire Group
  - By Friday, 03/07 - Edit the minutes using google docs or by emailing Ms. Natalie Finstad.
  - By Friday, 03/07 - Offer feedback on the Theological Grounding by using google docs or by emailing Ms. Natalie Finstad your comments.
- The Rev. Mike Michie - Coordinate group to amend the wording about required diocesan contributions on the Church Planting Grant Applications.

- The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne - Contact the Rev. Tom Brackett about communicating the launch of the Redevelopment Initiative.
- Ms. Natalie Finstad
  - Week of 03/04 - Revise the Theological Grounding and send to the team early next week.
  - By Friday, 03/01 - Type minutes to the meeting and send to the rest of the Task Force
- The Rev. Tom Brackett - Upload the schedule of Public Gatherings for the Redevelopment Initiative with the Task Force on extranet once they are shared with the House of Bishops.

**The Next Meeting of the Task Force is Wednesday, the 20th of March via Zoom.**