

Enduring Witness Community Engagement Grant Report 2019 - 2021

From: Commission on Reconciliation, Chrystie Adams, COR Chair, Lisa Beacham,
Past COR Chair, Jose Lopez-Chapa and Susan Krehbiel, Presbytery Staff

To: The Steering Cabinet

DATE: August 23, 2021

1) ENDURING WITNESS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANT SUMMARIES BY YEAR

Church	Amt. Awarded	Amt. Requested	Description
Knox	\$6,400	\$7,500	To start "You Speak" teen coping and anti-bullying program with the Dawson Safe Haven Teen Center
St. John United	\$6,000	\$7,500	Bryant Woods Elementary School Partnerhesip – 2 new soccer teams, appreciation events, parenting workshops
Dickey Memorial	\$2,500	\$5,000	Community engagement and discernment for future with Dickey Hill Elementary and surrounding neighborhoods
Faith	\$6,000	\$7,000	Walter P. Carter Elementary School partnership, family engagement nights
Maryland	\$1,600	\$7,500	Community organizing and training for outreach to area children and families
First of Annapolis	\$2,500	\$7,500	Listening sessions and pilot tutoring program
Lochearn	0	\$7,500	Not funded – Didn't sufficiently meet criteria
Churchville	0	\$2,400	Not funded - Didn't sufficiently meet criteria
Trinity	0	\$7,225	Not funded – Late Applicant
Total	\$25,000	\$59, 125	

2019 AWARD SUMMARY

2020 AWARD SUMMARY

Church	Amt. Awarded	Amt. Requested	Description
Faith	\$4,000 (Have an additional \$3000 from 2019)	\$4,000	Family Engagement Nights with Walter P. Carter Elementary
Fallston	\$2,000 (Have an additional \$3000 from 2019)	\$2,000	Expansion of Kids SOAR (Serving Others All aRound) after school program New program - The Blessing Bus which will support local ministry organizations
*Hunting Ridge	\$6,000	\$6,000	Rosemont Community Interfaith Coalition Summer Camp – Note below
Knox	\$4500 (Have and additional \$2,000 from 2019)	\$4500	To start, You Speak, an anti-bullying and arts program in partnership with a local elementary school, the Dawson Safe Haven Center, and various arts programs.
Maryland	\$7,500	\$7,500	Emergency Food Pantry – shelving, moving
**St. John United	\$1,000 (Have an additional \$6000 from 2019)	\$1,500	Bryant Woods Elementary partnership for development of a soccer program – Note below
Total	\$25,000	\$25,500***	

All churches who had funds left over from 2019 were as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and programs that could not be completed. The Commission discussed this at length and agreed funds could stay with the grantee to either hold for the same program at a later date or to propose an alternative use during the pandemic.

***Hunting Ridge Summer Camp** was not held due to the pandemic and the funds were not sent to the church. COR agreed to award the funds for the 2021 camp and requested an updated budget and program description.

**** St. John United** – Initial request to use 2019 funds for purchase of school equipment was denied. Reallocation of \$3,000 requested in December 2020 was approved by COR. The money was used to purchase student study desks (for home use) which church and school partners built and distributed.

*** **Brown Memorial** requested \$1,575 for Soaring Eagles Learning Camp. The camp was not held due to the pandemic so the request was withdrawn.

2021 AWARD SUMMARY

Church	Amt. Awarded	Amt. Requested	Description
Brown Memorial Application #1	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,500	Green Team Projects working with other congregations
Brown Memorial Application #2	\$ 0	\$ 5,000	Not funded – Grant application did not specify where the EW/CE funds would be used and applicant had listed several other sources of funds to support their program
Faith	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,500	Family Engagement Nights with Walter P Carter Elementary/Middle School.
Hunting Ridge (HRPC)	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	Rosemont Community Interfaith Coalition Summer Camp - 5 week program. Funds will pay for Artist in Residence and support other enrichment activities.
Cherry Hill	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,500	Cherry Hill Distribution Ministry – food and toiletries
Maryland	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,500	Becoming a teaching congregation with Food and Faith Inc.
Comunidad Presbiteriana La Trinidad	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	Micro Loan Program
Hope	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,500	Reengaging the community - with outreach programs
Total	\$ 25,000	\$ 47,500	
		\$ 47,500	

2) Commission On Reconciliation Observations and Realizations during the first three years of the grant program:

- The Presbytery's criteria for Enduring Witness Fund grants administered by COR reads in its entirety: *"This grant protocol will involve grants for community outreach, more specifically for community organizing and community engagement. These funds shall be distributed by the Commission on Reconciliation. This amount will be budgeted at \$25,000 per year."*

- It is important to note that COR created this grant program from scratch using the above criteria statement. COR members thoughtfully and prayerfully began by defining “community outreach”, “community organizing” and “community engagement” based on years of experience and lessons learned from our Partnerships and Self Development of People grants.
- COR has learned more from each round of funding. In making grant decisions, COR considered both the alignment of the ministry/project with the grant criteria and the applicant’s need for Presbytery funds (access to other funding sources). As our understanding of the grant deepened, the grant application has been refined each year with an overall goal to encourage and equip our congregations to better engage with their communities.
- Applications have been received from 15 different congregations, with new churches applying each year. Our congregations have exhibited great creativity and diversity in the ways in which they seek to engage with their communities. COR has intentionally continued to structure and word the grant application in such a way as to allow for creativity and broad engagement from as many congregations as possible, while also encouraging new ministries.
- COR is implementing the following revisions to our application and award process for 2022 to bring greater clarity for applicants and improve grant management by COR:
 - Explicitly stating that COR will accept only one (1) CE grant application per church and revising the language regarding Session approval and signature of the Clerk of Session to reflect this requirement.
 - Adding an interim reporting requirement and revising the final reporting requirements including a more detailed budget reporting form and a final program evaluation form.
 - Adding clear language regarding the maximum number of years that a church may apply for the EW/CE grant for the same project. We have decided on 3 years and will encourage and support as much as possible congregations to identify additional sources of funding to sustain their initiatives. We will also adjust the grant application language to indicate that we are looking for ways that the project is being expanded.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2019 and 2020 funding has been more difficult to clearly and concisely report. COR understands that funds not used are to be returned to the Presbytery. Several of the recipients requested that the funds be carried over to the next year due to COVID-related implementation delays and were granted that permission after review by COR. This carry-forward practice is an exception for extraordinary times and not intended as an ongoing policy.
- COR is very hopeful that the Enduring Witness Community Engagement grant program will continue and even expand with additional funding in the coming grant cycle. It is our desire to support even more of our congregations as they embrace the work of reconciliation through efforts to dismantle racism, alleviate suffering, and bear public witness to the reconciling love of Christ.