

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES: 2018 GENERAL CONVENTION



REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15 and 2016-2018



Where The Episcopal Church Is Now

- In 2016, Membership was 1,745,156 – a 19% decline over 10 years.
- In 2016, ASA was 570,453 – 25% decline over 10 years.
- During the same period, the US population GREW by 8.3%, or 25 million people.

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2018



Evangelism is one of our top mission priorities, set by the 2015

General Convention. Strategies to meet this priority include:

- Genesis Project: Church Planting and Missional Initiatives
- Congregational Redevelopment
- Evangelism Matters conferences
- Revivals
- Evangelism grants
- Social media and Digital initiatives
- Evangelism with particular ethnic groups

Many of these evangelism initiatives interact with our other priorities of racial reconciliation and creation care.





The importance of supporting church plants and local initiatives:

- The local congregation is how evangelism has primarily been practiced by the church for over 2,000 years.
- When St. Paul wanted to preach the gospel to all nations, he did it by forming many small local congregations – and those congregations changed the world.
- St. Paul also stayed in touch with his congregations, and kept them in relationship with each other – because local church leaders need training, support, encouragement, and resources from the wider church.



- New congregations often show the highest growth, because they are located in growing areas or reach out to underserved populations.
- New congregations can try new experiments in worship and community outreach.
- New styles of worship allow us to reach people who would not be reached by any existing Episcopal church.
- New churches have a strong mission focus and are highly motivated to do evangelism and community outreach.
- New churches often have high baptism and confirmation rates, because they tend to reach un-churched and de-churched people.
- New churches can act as the R&D department for the entire church.
- New churches grow the kingdom of God.

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Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15 and 2016-2018



The Génesis Project

The D005 Advisory Group on Church Planting



REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15



Church Starts and Missional Initiatives in the 2013-15 Triennium



Hmong Church Planting Initiative

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15



St. Columba's Church

- \$2 million (1.8% of budget) for new church starts and "Mission Enterprise Zones"
- Also budgeted staff support
- Mission Enterprise Zone is defined as a project committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, poor and working-class people, people of color, people with a high-school diploma or less, and people with little or no church background or involvement.
- Dioceses required to provide matching funds.

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15



Projects Funded, 2013-15

- 13 New Church Starts, including:
- 7 for non-English-dominant populations
 - One multi-cultural (English-Spanish)
 - One Fresh Expressions (coffeehouse)
 - One ministering to urban homeless
 - 2 in Province IX



REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15



Projects Funded, 2013-15, continued

- 25 Mission Enterprise Zones
- All of these by definition reached out to populations that are under-represented in the Episcopal Church, including:
 - 3 Latino leadership development projects
 - 2 projects with Indigenous people
 - 1 Sudanese ministry
 - 1 project integrating faith and creation care
 - Several projects working with young adults
 - Numerous projects integrating faith with social ministry and justice work

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15



Projects Funded, 2013-15

- Total ministries funded: 38
- Ministries no longer in operation in 2018: 5
- Continuance rate: 87%
- Lifeway study showed that across 40 denominations, just 68% of new churches are still going as of the 4th year.
- Our odds in The Episcopal Church are improved by funding and a network of support.

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15: Statistics



These projects take a few years to grow and reach maturity.

- Many of them cannot be measured by worship attendance, but by ministry reach. These too are part of the mission of our church.
- New church starts: combined ASA 742 (this includes several projects for which "ASA" is not a relevant statistic, such as The Abbey)
- Mission Enterprise Zones: average combined unique weekly "interactions": 998



REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

The Genesis Project



People come into Crossroads, the social service agency where we are housed, largely for tangible support such as food, identification, transportation assistance, and Soup Kitchen. However, the Church's mission to also feed the soul may be best evident in a comment one worshipper expressed after eating lunch then coming in to worship: "My stomach is full, but I'm hungry for Jesus."

-The Rev. Teresa Wakeen, The Church at the Crossroads, Detroit

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15




Grace Church Yukon

- A new church start in Yukon, OK
- Tim & Kirsten Baer have led the church to ASA of 165 in 2016

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15



Grace Church just celebrated our fourth anniversary of our launch. Grace Church has about 310 active members today and our ASA is around 150. Sunday, we did our 77th baptism and we've done 41 confirmations and receptions since 2014. Our congregation on a Sunday includes a lot of young families. We have charismatics who became thirsty for liturgy; we have post-evangelicals who were searching for a more loving and graceful faith; we have LGBT individuals, married couples and families who were looking for a safe church home; we have divorcees who became refugees after their divorce; we have single moms who had a rough start in life and needed a church that wouldn't judge them and who could support them.

- The Rev. Tim Baer

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15



Walking Together, Worcester, MA

- Serves homeless and marginally housed people
- Operates a storefront in Main South neighborhood
- Coffee, snacks
- Detox and 12-Step groups
- Moms' groups
- English as a second language classes
- Laundry Love



REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2013-15



This year Maundy Thursday fell on a Laundry Love night. We washed feet, celebrated Eucharist, and had the great gift of a massage therapist who donated her time to give foot massages. One of our guests, who comes most months, lives in her truck with her husband who has dementia. One of the things we do for her is help keep track of her husband while she does laundry. He sometimes wanders away from the truck. When we offered her a foot massage, she was amazed. Afterwards she said, "That was the first time in five years that anyone took care of ME."

-The Rev. Meredyth Ward

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18




New Church Starts and Missional Initiatives in the 2016-18 Triennium

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



- \$3 million for Church Plants and Missional Initiatives
- \$260,000 for church planter training and resources
- Staffing to oversee grants, training, assessment, support for diocesan offices, coaching, etc.
- Roughly 2-3% of church-wide budget



REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18




Lifeway study across 40 denominations shows church plants are far more likely to thrive with:

- A planter who is assessed as having planting gifts
- Training in the specialized area of ministry initiation
- Bilingual and Bi-Cultural immersion, if appropriate
- Coaching
- A wider network of sharing and support
- The D005 initiative, led by the Genesis Group, provides all these

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18




Resolution D005 Came With Additional Features

- To help increase the odds of thriving
- Genesis Advisory Group has exercised major leadership role
- New starts are required to have an identified place & plan
- Planters must be assessed as having the gifts for planting
- Planters are trained and supported through ongoing communities of practice
- All ministries have coaching, planning, and reporting on progress toward goals

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



Good Samaritan

Projects Funded, 2016-18

- 21 New Church Starts, including:
 - 8 Latinx new starts
 - 3 other multi-ethnic new starts
 - 2 new starts specifically connecting with Millennials
 - Several non-traditional projects (e.g., Hope Sandwiches, The Slate Project)



REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



Projects Funded, 2016-18, continued

- 22 Mission Enterprise Zones and hybrid missional communities
- All of these by definition reached out to populations that are under-represented in the Episcopal Church, including:
 - 3 Latino leadership development projects
 - Other populations including Millennials, those living with poverty or homelessness, indigenous / native groups, and environmental stewardship / farming
 - Numerous projects integrating faith with social ministry and justice work

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18




Projects Funded, 2016-18, continued

- 14 discernment grants to assist with assessment, training, and consulting during the pre-launch phase of a project

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



Projects Funded, 2016-18, continued

- 10 renewal grants for ministries initially funded in 2013-15, including:
 - 4 Latinx renewals
 - 2 other multi-ethnic renewals
 - 1 working with Millennials
 - 1 farming



REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18




Projects Funded, 2016-18, continued

- Total ministries funded: 58
- Ministries no longer in operation in 2018: 0
- Continuance rate: 100%
- Some ministries are still in pre-launch phase.

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



Statistics

- These projects take a few years to grow and reach maturity.
- Many of them cannot be measured by worship attendance, but by ministry reach. These too are part of the mission of our church.
- New church starts: combined ASA 917 (this includes several projects for which "ASA" is not a relevant statistic)
- Mission Enterprise Zones: average combined unique weekly "interactions": 1,350

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



Good Samaritan, Brownsburg, Indiana

Good Samaritan is serving a rapidly growing suburban community of Indianapolis that is experiencing an influx of diversity. Dominated by evangelical mega-churches, we are the first progressive, open-minded, inclusive, servant-oriented church in our community. Our 2017 ASA moved from 63 in January 2017 to 82 in December 2017, with 145 people who are now considered solid "members." We don't have an in-house outreach "program." Instead, we have taken advantage of partnering with local organizations to do all of our community service and servant ministry. This requires us to keep our networks strong and our focus outward.

- The Rev. Gray Lesesne

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



Chaplains on the Harbor

Chaplains on the Harbor serves people living in poverty on the coast of Washington State. Our people are majority young adults, most with a record and many living with homelessness. We are a hybrid ministry, offering both a regular weekly service in our Westport location, as well as providing a community center, street and jail outreach. We serve about 350 people in the county. This past year, we launched an apprenticeship program, designed to hire young adults off the street and out of jail and provide them with a job, wrap around support, and leadership training. Our goal, articulated from a Bible study of Isaiah 58 by a group of young men in jail, is to develop leaders to help "restore the streets to live in," in one of the poorest counties in the state.

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



Plainsong Farm, Belmont, Michigan

As a farm ministry, we are an incarnational expression of the gospel that integrates care of Creation, worship and discipleship. We serve various populations:

- The members of our farm who eat our food each week;
- The members of the wider community who receive our food as a donation;
- The wider community who engage in seasonal farm-based worship;
- The wider community who learn / work with us;
- The national Christian food movement through the website we created and maintain.

- The Rev. Nurya Love Parish

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



Meg Wagner, Iowa City, Iowa

With our discernment grant we gathered a core team and began doing one-on-ones in our community, developing what a center for Racial Justice, Healing and Reconciliation could look like that would serve both as a resource for the Diocese of Iowa and the Iowa City community. The focus of our initiative is ministry with those who have been marginalized because of their race and those who wish to dismantle racism. We will also be working to build an interfaith coalition to support interfaith worship centered on racial justice, healing and reconciliation.

- The Rev. Meg Wagner

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Report on Ministries Funded, 2016-18



San Pedro y San Pablo, Portland, Oregon

We believe our blended community, which is Anglo/Latino, represents the future of the church. We began a separate Spanish mass in 2007 and six years later discerned that we needed to come together as one community. The shared worship is the most essential element of our common life. We are committed to building an integrated church, practicing radical hospitality, promoting social justice, and providing community service. Latino people have told us that this is the first place they have felt welcome and equal. [Anglos] have talked about the changes we have experienced and that we appreciate different expressions of worship, faith, and beauty. We see issues differently because of the impact on people close to us. We believe we have changed as people and as Christians and that our spiritual life is richer and deeper.

- Carolyn Purcell

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Budget



2016-18 Budget Allotment:

- \$3 million for Church planting & missional initiatives grants
- \$260,000 for church planting training and resources
- \$150,000 for program budget

2019-21 Council Proposed Budget:

- \$2.6 million for Church planting & missional initiatives grants
- \$200,000 for church planting training and resources
- \$160,000 for program budget

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Budget



Resolution A005 (Proposed by Genesis Group):

- \$3 million for church planting & missional initiatives grants
- \$200,000 for training and resources
- \$600,000 for resources for planters
- \$1,000,000 for bilingual and bi-cultural training
- \$500,000 for staff support
- \$1,500,000 for land bank for land purchase loans
- Development Office to raise \$6 million

REPORT TO THE CHURCH ON CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

Congregational Redevelopment



Resolution A032 – Congregational Redevelopment

- Creating a community of practice to help up to 100 local congregations better engage their context
- Particularly for congregations who don't match their surrounding communities demographically and need to revitalize
- Helping them launch new, culturally appropriate missional initiatives
- Cost to be shared by church-wide budget, dioceses, and congregations
- Proposed budget allocates \$500,000.

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2018



Revivals

Revivals are evangelism and mission engagements hosted by local dioceses in partnership with PB's office.

Budget:

- 2016-18: \$129,000
- 2019-21: \$135,000

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2018



Revivals

Revival Goals:

- To publicly proclaim a compassionate, generous Episcopal Christianity.
- To share the good news of Jesus Christ in a way that matches the particular context
- To deepen our own loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with God and equip Episcopalians for evangelism.
- To listen for and join the Spirit's reconciling work in the communities around us.

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2018



Revivals

Revival planning:

- TEC Evangelism Team works with local diocese to plan revival, organize prayer teams, discern a clear mission and vision, and train local evangelists to invite non-Episcopalians.
- PB Curry preaches and others lead other parts.
- Follow-up and ongoing evangelism and mission engagement in host diocese.
- 6 held so far, 2 more this year
- 9 expected in 2019-21 triennium

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Evangelism Matters Conferences



- Other Evangelism Initiatives:
- Evangelism Matters Conferences – sponsored in partnership with Forward Movement
 - 2 so far, 870 participants, 21,000 via web in 2018
 - Training Episcopalians as evangelists for their local communities
 - Forming and nurturing a network of Episcopal evangelists

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Evangelism Matters Conferences



- Evangelism Matters Budget:
- 2016-18: \$18,000
 - 2019-21 Proposed: \$30,000 (including network formation)

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Small Evangelism Grants Program



- Budget Allotment of \$100,000 allows funding of grants for local and regional evangelism projects.
- \$2,000 for a congregational project or up to \$8,000 for a diocesan or regional collaboration
 - Projects must be specifically evangelistic, and learnings must be shared with wider church
 - Projects range from training Latino small-group evangelistic leaders to video storytelling to inviting racial justice leaders to experience worship
 - Many projects overlap with racial reconciliation and creation care priorities

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Small Evangelism Grants Program



- Budget Allotment:**
- 2016-18: \$100,000
 - 2019-21 Proposed Budget and Resolution A030: \$100,000

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Social Media and Digital Evangelism



- Resolution A081: Episcopal Theology of Evangelism**
- Proposes an Episcopal Theology of Evangelism: "A Practical Theology of Episcopal Evangelism: Face-to-Face and Cyberspace" – written by General Convention Task Force for Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism
 - White paper can be found in Blue Book, in that task force's report
 - Commends it to be read, no budget consequences

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Social Media and Digital Evangelism



- Resolution A082: Training for Digital Evangelists**
- Continues process of creating social media curricula for clergy and lay people
 - Asks that TEC use this curriculum to train evangelists
 - TEC to work with other organizations (e.g. Forma) to train trainers, so each diocese has a trained, licensed digital evangelist
 - Asks for \$100,000.

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Evangelism Charter for the Church



Resolution A029: Evangelism Charter for the Church

- Evangelism OF the Church – We will:
- Recognize our own belovedness
 - Engage spiritual practices
 - Remember our own faith stories
 - Articulate our stories of God's love

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Evangelism Charter for the Church



Resolution A029: Evangelism Charter for the Church

- Evangelism BY the Church – We will:
- Invite and listen to others' stories
 - Name and celebrate stories of Christ
 - Share our stories of encounter and resurrection in Jesus
 - Plant seeds of hope

EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

Evangelism Charter for the Church



Resolution A029: Evangelism Charter for the Church

- Evangelism FOR the Church – We will:
- Allow ourselves to be transformed
 - Discover fresh approach to the Gospel
 - Invite others to discover their belovedness
 - Grow more servants for Jesus Movement

Resolution commends it to the church, no budget

OTHER EVANGELISM INITIATIVES

- Ethnic ministries offices
- Website: www.episcopalchurch.org/evangelism
- Episcopal Evangelism Toolkit:
 - Foundations
 - Evangelism 101
 - Beloved Community StorySharing Project
 - Evangelism and Social Media
- Episcopal Evangelism Team – including staff and Council's Local Ministry & Mission committee