

# Bristol County Case Fund Committee By-Laws

August 3, 2016

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### I. Statement of Purpose

The Bristol Case Trust Committee seeks to facilitate the Episcopal parishes in Bristol County in their charitable and mission ministries. This is done through monetary grants funded from the interest realized from the Case Trust. In keeping with the spirit of the Case legacy and Diocesan mission priorities, outreach projects embracing partnerships between or among churches, denominations and other community agencies are encouraged. The committee seeks to answer God's urgent call to join in God's mission in the world through partnerships and mission outreach projects with neighbors down the street, across the country and around the globe.

## II Membership and Officers

### A. Membership

The established procedure has been, and continues to be, two priests and four lay persons from the Mt. Hope/Buzzard's Bay Deanery and one priest and two lay persons from the part of the Taunton River Deanery which is in Bristol County. The deans of those deaneries are ex-officio members of the Committee with voice but no vote. They are kept abreast of the Committee's actions and decisions.

## B. Officers

By a consensus vote of all initial members of the Committee, the offices of Chairman, Recording Secretary and Treasurer were created. These offices continue to be filled by the committee.

## C Terms of Office and Quorum

The terms of committee membership are for four years. Additional terms of office (up to a total of three terms or twelve years) can be served if a member wishes to continue on the Committee and with the approval of a majority of the committee members. Officers are elected by the membership of the committee for a single four year term. Replacement committee members are to be sought with the help of the deans so that any new member would come from the same deanery as the member going off of the committee. Terms of committee membership begin in September of each year. This committee normally meets only three times a year and experience in the decision making process is helpful. A quorum for decision making will be five members (out of the total of nine members) of the committee.

## III. Criteria for Granting

Grant funds are to be used for charitable and missionary purposes by Episcopal congregations and Mission Hubs in Bristol County, Diocese of Massachusetts. These purposes are to be consistent with the spirit of the charitable mission of the Diocese and the Case legacy.

Our process is to disburse available funds through a simple request-for funds process. In a single granting year, no one church's or Mission Hub's grants will exceed 25% of the total funds available.

We encourage congregations to work creatively with other agencies and/or congregations; Episcopal, ecumenical or interfaith, following the principal that together we can accomplish more than we can accomplish separately. Applications must be written by members of eligible churches and/or Mission Hubs. We also encourage applicants to seek outside funding whenever possible to supplement funds received in this grant process. We do not fund church restoration, repair or congregational development. These areas are covered by existing Diocesan granting programs. Eligibility for consideration of further future grant requests is dependent upon the recipient's submission of a report (separate from any new grant application) at the end of the calendar year describing their use of Case Trust monies. Both the approval of a grant request and the approval of the amount of money to be awarded to that request are made by simple majority votes of the Committee. Each application is evaluated in light of all applications received and funding available each year. The Committee is not obliged to disburse all funds available in any one year. Money not disbursed is returned to the trust principle. Members of the Committee do not participate in discussion or voting on their parishes' grant requests.

## APPENDIX

### Establishment of Committee

The Case Trust/Bristol County Fund Committee was established following several exploratory meetings between Helen Netos, Office of Congregational Development, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and interested members of laity and clergy representing the Episcopal congregations in Bristol County beginning in September, 2004. The deans of the two deaneries (Taunton River Deanery and Mount Hope/Buzzards' Bay Deanery) in which the congregations are located were asked to be *ex-officio* members of the Committee and to facilitate the selection of persons willing to serve and develop the work of this granting body.

Volunteers were requested and the Deans invited others to make a balanced representation. Based on the demographics of the congregations in the respective deaneries, two clergy and four laity were appointed from the Mount Hope/Buzzards' Bay Deanery and one clergy and two laity from the Taunton River Deanery were appointed.