

# Mission Initiatives Committee (MIC) Grant Guidance

## Process and Reporting Overview 2025

### Introduction

During each annual Diocesan budget cycle, the Mission Initiative Committee (MIC) seeks proposals from *established churches and programs*<sup>1</sup> for strategic ministry funding allocated in annual Diocesan budgets.

- **Role of the MIC.** Diocesan Council has tasked the MIC with facilitating the grant request process and making recommendations to Council regarding congregations, programs, and chaplaincies that receive funding through the annual diocesan budget under the “Mission Initiatives” category. This entails developing/maintaining applications, establishing guidelines to promote alignment with Mission Strategy, and recommending funding. Additionally, the MIC receives reports, provides evaluations, and makes recommendations to Diocesan Council.
- **Funding Philosophy.** It is the earnest desire of the Diocesan Council that recipients of a Mission Initiatives grant work toward achieving self-sustaining status that would allow the mission to continue on its own without Diocesan financial support. There is no pre-established timetable for achieving self-sustainability. The MIC and Diocesan Council also recognize that some recipients may never achieve self-sustaining status. Each mission initiative is regarded individually, and the MIC promotes collaborative communication between the various recipients, as noted further herein, to foster the exchange of ideas and lessons learned.
- **Program Entry and Continuing Participation.** Presently, the budget for Mission Initiatives includes recipients currently supported through the Diocesan Budget, and monies for grants to first-time applicants.

### Parameters for Funding Applications

- **Existing Grantees**
  - **Returning Applicants of Mission Initiative Funding.** Mission Initiatives in this category that seek further funding during the annual Diocesan budgeting cycle are required to:
    - 1) Apply for the new cycle;
    - 2) Provide a written report on how the initiative made use of previously granted funds.

- **Funding.** There are no specific limits on funding requests *per se* for returning applicants. The MIC will evaluate applications to make a determination of award, if any, based on merit, achievement of mission goals, creativity, impact, past funds management, and progress toward self-sustainability.

### Applications and Reporting Forms

Application and reporting forms are subject to change each year and are made available via a Formstack system. Applicants will be notified when the application and reporting forms are available.

### General Schedule Guidance/Expectations

- Applications for returning applicants will be made available in concert with the start of the annual Diocesan budgeting cycle. The availability of the application and reporting forms will also be communicated through typical Diocesan communication vehicles (e.g., FYI, etc.). For initiatives in this category, *this is an annual requirement.*
- **Reporting Requirements.**
  - In 2025, a returning applicant that hopes to receive funding through the 2026 Diocesan Budget will be expected to report on their funding expenditures and accomplishments from the 2024 funding year.
- **Initiatives Exiting the Diocesan Budgeting Cycle.** An existing initiative that exits the budgeting process (e.g., achieve self-sustainability) will be expected to provide a report on expenditures immediately in a format provided by the MIC.