

Strategy for Growing Healthier Ministry in Southeast Florida

The Bishop has proposing a sweeping, consolidated, and long-term diocesan “Strategy for Growing Healthier Ministry in Southeast Florida.” There are five elements that will propel the strategy, three already exist and two are new. The five elements of the strategy for growing healthier congregations are:

- + The Parish Finance & Assessment Commission (PF&A) annually awards approximately \$610,000 in congregational grants (\$175,000 in cash aid and \$440,000 in assessment reduction).*
- + Episcopal Charities along with Human Needs Committee (Matthew 25 Committee) awards over \$300,000 per year in outreach grants.*
- + The Nehemiah Process already ministers to over 44% of our congregations. Their experiences can be immeasurable in creating helpful resources, training, and consultations.*
- + New: Property & Loan Committee (P&L) has raised the grant level for mission congregations from \$11,000 to \$20,000 per parish for capital improvement projects.
 - i. Mortgage Freeze Program is available to assist congregations with diocesan mortgages to invest in new ministries over a two year period. If the congregation is approved for a mortgage freeze by the P&L Committee, the mortgage funds are frozen for two years and the funds used to create new ministries.**
- + New: Bishop’s Ministry Grant Program (BMGP) will provide over one million dollars to strengthen the leadership and infrastructure within the congregations of the diocese.*



Who may apply?

Any congregation or regional ministry may apply for the first four grant offerings as may fit the guidelines of each organization.

1. **Parish Finance and Assessment Commission (PF&A): Deals with congregations seeking financial ministry grants or an assessment reduction.**
 - a. Any congregation or regional ministry may apply.
 - b. Contact Cris Valdes (cris@diosef.org or 305-373-0881) to schedule a meeting date.
 - c. Download the application from the diocesan web page – www.diosef.org. Click on “*Resources*”, “*Diocesan Forms*” - for an application.
 - d. Most grants from PF&A are awarded at the February Executive Board meeting.

2. **Matthew 25 (Episcopal Charities): Deals with congregation and community outreach program issues.**
 - a. Any congregation or regional ministry may apply.
 - b. To apply, contact Bonnie Weaver (bonnie@ecsefl.org).
 - c. Visit the diocesan web page – www.diosef.org - and click on the “*Episcopal Charities*” button for details on the grant qualifications, the list of previous awards, the grant application, and the application deadline. You may also go directly to the Episcopal Charities website at www.ecsefl.org.

3. **Nehemiah Process: Provides parish and leadership development opportunities.**
 - a. All clergy and lay leaders from the diocesan congregations, regional ministries, and specialized ministries are invited and welcome to participate in any of the Nehemiah Process programs.
 - b. To apply, contact Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs (dochobbs@bellsouth.net) or Linda Schlepp-Gray (linda98@bellsouth.net).
 - c. Information on the Nehemiah Process can be found on the diocesan web page – www.diosef.org. Click on the “*Nehemiah Process*” button.

4. **Property and Loan Committee (P&L): Deals with property, construction, and contract issues.**
 - a. Any congregations that wish to renovate their existing parish structures or engage in new construction must apply to the P&L Committee for review.
 - b. The P&L Committee makes recommendations to the Executive Board for final approval.
 - c. Mission congregations may apply for a one-time grant of up to \$20,000 for capital expenses.
 - d. Congregations with a diocesan mortgage may apply for a Mortgage Freeze.
 - e. Contact Cris Valdes (cris@diosef.org or 305-373-0881).
 - f. Download the application from the diocesan web page – www.diosef.org. Click on “*Resources*”, “*Diocesan Forms*” - for an application.

5. **Bishop's Ministry Grants (BMG)**: Deals with funding creative and innovative programs that will assist the Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida in expanding her overall ministry.

- Any congregations, regional ministries, deanery or diocesan wide initiatives may apply.
- Contact Gail McShane (gail@diosef.org or 305-373-0881) for an application.
- Visit the diocesan web page – www.diosef.org – and click on ***“Bishop's Ministry Grants”*** for grant guidelines, the application, and application deadlines.