

Commission on Congregational Missions report

The Commission on Congregational Missions (CCM) continues its work of assisting the overseeing Bishop in the delegated oversight of Diocesan Missions. The current list of our 23 mission congregations can be found on the diocesan website under the Commission on Congregational Missions. Good Shepherd of the Hills Boonesville/Free Union closed in December of 2024.

During 2025, CCM has engaged in a transitional year of building on its strong foundations and improving support to mission churches. The commission has updated its goals, streamlined the process of obtaining grant applications from mission churches for operating expenses, provided a new, web-based process and form for applying for special grants for Mission Maintenance and Repairs Projects and Special Needs, added two new persons to the number of liaisons, and welcomed Bishop Bourlakas' leadership. We also provided support for questions about current church operations and future paths for ministry and provided new demographical information to churches to help them update their mission in their neighborhood. Finally, because of related work in the Ministry for Congregational Vitality, mission churches have access to the new Congregational Vitality Assessment to measure 13 areas of ministry that impact vitality and sustainability.

In order to make time for this transitional work, just for the year 2025, CCM asked mission churches to keep their grant requests for 2026 at the 2025 level, unless faced by extraordinary circumstances. The 2026 grant to Santa Maria is proposed to increase, to remedy an administrative error in the 2025 budget preparation, but all other operating grants remain at the same level. It is noteworthy that increased costs of personnel and health care affect all churches, including mission churches.

In 2025, at the recommendation of CCM, the Convention approved \$479,100 to be distributed across 19 churches. Special grants for maintenance and special projects, at the time of publication, total \$12,889.

Thank you to the members of our commission Dorothy DeJong, Ginny Ferguson, Elizabeth Kim, Kathie Panfil, Tomas Saucedo, Linda Strickland, the Rev. Emily Krudys, and the Rev. Stephen Haggerty and the Rev. Jennings Hobson.

Submitted by,

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