The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
Growth Development Fund
Grants Available for Church Capital Projects
2026

During initial Bishop Gutiérrez's pilgrimage, it was discovered that several congregations needed small to medium capital improvements to expand their capacity for ministry, hospitality, and community engagement. For some churches this meant a renovation to a room for youth; repairing an old HVAC system; improving access with handicapped ramps; repaving the parking lot; or replacing old windows with new energy-efficient ones.

Unfortunately, many of the congregations that shared these needs did not have the funds to undertake such a project. In response, our Bishop has created The Growth Development Fund to help parishes making such improvements.

Here is information on grants from the Fund:

- It is a nine-year program.[1]
- Grants are for capital improvement that will enhance a church's capacity for ministry or the need for capital improvement.
- Determinations will be made based both on an evaluation of the urgency of the need and the potential impact it may have on the congregation's life and ministry.
- Awards will be for projects up to $30,000. A church that receives a grant will be expected to report the following year on the progress of its enhanced ministry and the effect on the congregation.
- For Round 10 (2026), applications are being accepted from July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026. **Apply Now.** See application below. Churches that need help filling out the grant application can contact Canon Doug Horner, dhorner@diopa.org
- Awards are **not** given on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Churches that do not receive a grant in prior years do not need to apply the following year. Any church wishing to have their application re-considered needs to email Canon Doug Horner, dhorner@diopa.org, to confirm their prior years application be re-considered and declare any change in project scope or timing from the original application.

Awards will be announced in mid-November 2026.

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[1]To make these investments in churches, the Diocese will withdraw from unrestricted endowment funds, over and above their normal distribution, up to $300,000 each year for nine years, with a maximum total of $2.7 million. Withdrawals will be made annually and placed in a designated fund for distribution. Unused funds will be carried over to the following year.

Application for the Growth Development Fund

If you wish to apply for a grant please answer the following questions, using additional pages if necessary. Please also provide the following documentation as listed:

1. **The church's name and address**

2. **The name and contact information for a designated point person.**

3. **Description of the Project:**

What are the details of the proposed project?
How much will it cost? Please include contractor quote(s) or proposal(s).
What is the timeline for its completion?

4. **How will this project contribute to the growth, life, and mission of the church?**

5. **A copy of the following:**
a) The most recent parochial report
b) The most recent year-end financial reports – Balance Sheet & Income Statement
c) The current year annual budget with current year to date figures
d) Minutes of the Vestry meeting indicating approval of the proposed project application

6. **Written endorsement of Dean of the congregation's Deanery**

Please submit all materials to Canon Doug Horner at dhorner@diopa.org. Applications will be reviewed by the Mission Committee of the Diocesan Board of Trustees and recommended to Bishop for approval.