

Episcopal Church Foundation/Lilly Endowment National Initiative

Ministerial Excellence Fund Grant

“From Economic Challenges to Transformational Opportunities”

2019 Application for Clergy

Application deadline: November 8, 2019

The Diocese of Bethlehem is participating in a program to provide grants to clergy, in partnership with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) and the Lilly Endowment. These grants will support clergy who will be identified by the Bishop as having the capacity to be innovative, entrepreneurial and missional leaders with the ability to help transform congregations but for whom personal financial challenges are providing significant impediments.

These grants may be used for: supplementing part-time salaries of clergy in strategic congregations poised for revitalization and growth; alleviating educational (primarily seminary) debt; housing assistance for clergy serving communities beyond their financial means; and extraordinary medical expenses not covered by insurance. In addition, the Bishop may use grants for other purposes within these general guidelines.

Grant amounts can range from \$1,000 - \$15,000 for the year 2019.

This application should be returned to Steve Baker by November 8, 2019.

Please feel free to call him with any questions you may have regarding the application.

The Diocese will notify you in late November regarding your application status. Grants will be distributed by the Diocese to recipients on or about December 15, 2019.

Applicant Information

Date

Name

Email

Phone

Congregation

I. Personal Statement

Please attach a personal statement of no more than 750 words. Include how you would use this grant to address a personal economic challenge that is impeding your leadership capacity or your ability to exercise effective and appropriate spiritual and pastoral oversight. Specify the grant amount you are requesting and how these funds will improve or enhance your ability to help transform or grow your congregation.

II. Budget

Please attach an annual budget describing grant utilization in simple terms.

III. Your Resume

Attach a one-page resume or CV.

IV. Congregation Statistics

	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Projected)	2020 (Budgeted)
Operating Revenues					
Pledge Revenue					
Pledges (#)					
Assessment Paid					
Acceptance Paid					

V. Acknowledgement

By signing this application, I acknowledge the following:

- ECF and the Diocese of Bethlehem will not disclose any personalized information to an outside individual or organization without my written consent.
- If I receive a grant:
 - I agree to participate in evaluations and other feedback related to the grant and the broader Initiative.
 - I may be asked by my bishop and agree to access the services and resources provided by the Church Pension Group (CPG).
 - I may be provided with assistance associated with the tax consequences of the grant.

Applicant's Signature

Date