Congregational Revitalization & Development Committee

Report 2003

Mission Statement: *To develop with congregations plans for revitalization by presenting the Gospel, implementing strategies for renewal of faith, and strengthening actions for mission; and to organize and implement plans for the expansion of God's Kingdom in our Diocese through the development of new congregations.*
Vision Statement: *The Congregational Revitalization & Development Committee is the body through which our diocese actively seeks out opportunities for growth and determines diocesan support.*

The committee met on March 17, 2003 to consider grant proposals and recommendations. A grant for $5,000 was awarded to St. Paul's in Munster for the purpose of educational programs for the vestry and leadership development. An additional grant was awarded to St. James', Goshen of $7,000 for outreach programs unable to be funded through budgetary short falls. It was also recommended to the Diocesan Foundation that funds from the New Congregational Development Fund from the Forward in Faith Campaign be released to St. Thomas', Plymouth. Up to $60,000 over the next three years would be used to fund a part-time position to meet the needs of developing a new Hispanic ministry. Interest from the fund would first be used before any expenditure from the corpus of the fund.

In September of this year the committee considered a grant request from St. Paul's, Mishawaka. The parish has initiated an alternative service designed to attract those who are unchurched, or need to be re-churched and are looking for a progressive worship experience. The congregation has a seven-person music team in place. The grant asked for funds to help defray the cost of some sound and music equipment as well as the cost of some local advertising at Notre Dame, St. Mary's, IUSB, and in the South Bend Tribune. A budget of $10,500 for this purpose was submitted with the parish contributing $2,300 to the project. The committee granted a grant for the remainder of the funds needed in the amount of $8,200.

The committee stands ready to serve the diocese and its congregations. Requests for aid for congregational revitalization are welcome, and the committee eagerly awaits participation with the diocese in establishing new ministries.

Submitted for the Committee,
The Rev. Canon David L. Hyndman, Chair