Congregational Revitalization & Development Committee

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 has convened electronically twice during the year to consider grant proposals from congregations. In April the committee awarded a grant to St. Paul's in Munster in the amount of $1500.00 to underwrite transportation and speaking fees for Mrs. Norma Dearing who presented a healing conference featuring "Barriers to Healing" and "Unhealed Trauma" on May 8, 2004.

In July the committee awarded a grant of $2,095.00 to St. Alban's, Fort Wayne for the purchase of a portable desktop projector to be used to enhance Alpha programs and to provide needed catechetical material for adults with an enlarged corps of teachers. A grant was also awarded to Grace Church in Fort Wayne in the amount of $8,950.00 for a program of projects designed to improve the "Radical Hospitality" of the parish. This program is to attract and retain visitors and newcomers. Sixteen households have visited the parish at least twice and eight have become active in the parish. The grant was made to encourage this growth potential for the parish. These three grants have come from available funds for the year 2004.

Also in July the committee voted to extend a grant to St. Andrew's, Valparaiso to help underwrite their new Youth Minister, John Patston III, who has stimulated new growth and enthusiasm in youth ministry at St. Andrew's. The grant extension would be in the amount of $10,000.00 for each of the years 2005 and 2006. This will relieve some of the pressure on the congregation as it builds and moves into its new building. In addition, the committee agreed to a grant of $4,000.00 to help underwrite a youth mission trip to an Indian Reservation in the summer of 2005. The Youth Group is earning funds to pay for this mission trip; the grant will be used if the young people fall short of their goal.

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